

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1906-1907.



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SHILLONG :

PRINTED AT THE EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRESS.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1906-1907.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN 1906-1907.

SIR BAMPFYLDE FULLER, K.C.S.I., was in charge of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam up to the 19th August 1906 on which date he resigned his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor. He was succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir Lancelot) Hare, C.S.I., C.I.E., who took over the administration of the province on the 20th August 1906.

2. Sir Bampfylde Fuller left Shillong on the 6th July for his monsoon tour and ^{Tours.} visited Tippera, Bakarganj, Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra. The chief object of this tour was to ascertain, by personal enquiries on the spot, the effect of the prevailing scarcity on the people, and, with this view, His Honour, besides visiting the headquarters of the above districts, travelled through certain tracts in the interior of Tippera and Bakarganj where relief works had been started. Conferences were held with the local officers, and a scheme for the grant of agricultural loans on a liberal scale, and of gratuitous relief, where necessary, was formulated. Sir Bampfylde Fuller arrived at Dacca on the 28th July, where a halt was made till the 5th August. On the 6th His Honour left for Shillong.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hare proceeded on his first tour on the 1st November 1906 in the course of which he visited Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar, the Karimganj subdivision in Sylhet, Tippera and Chittagong, arriving at Dacca on the 15th December. His Honour left Dacca on December 22nd for Calcutta, and, after spending Christmas there, returned to the provincial capital on the 3rd January. After halting for about six weeks His Honour again left on tour on the 14th February 1907 and travelled through Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, and the Garo Hills, and also paid a visit to the subdivisional station of Sirajganj, returning to Dacca on the 5th March. On April 16th he proceeded to the summer headquarters of the province at Shillong.

During this tour, besides the usual inspections of local institutions, granting interviews to, and receiving deputations from, members of the various communities, His Honour met the members of the tea and other industries at various places and discussed matters of local interest with them. While at Jorhat, His Honour went fully into the scheme of building the new station there and examined several questions in connection with the central distillery. At Chittagong a detailed inspection was made of the jetties and the needs of the port were discussed. His Honour received a large number of addresses from local bodies and others. During his stay in Calcutta Mr. Hare met the members of the Railway Board at a conference and discussed various projects concerning the province.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

3. No administrative changes of special importance were introduced during the ^{Changes in} year. Such changes as occurred have been noticed in the sections dealing with the ^{the Admin-} branch of administration with which they are concerned. ^{istration.}

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

4. During the year arrangements were made for entrusting the administration of the State to His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh and a Darbar, and, on the 15th of May of this year, the Superintendent made over charge to the newly-constituted authorities. The latter have taken over the State in a sound financial position with a balance of 2½ lakhs to its credit, a normal revenue of about Rs. 4,20,000, and an expenditure of four lakhs, allowing 1½ lakhs for public works. The year was not a prosperous one for Manipur. The price of rice rose to Re. 1-10 a maund, and would have gone higher had not the Superintendent set a limit to the amount to be exported. This measure was no doubt arbitrary, but it was rendered necessary by the difficulty of communication with other rice-growing areas. Good progress has been made with the disarmament of the hill tribes, and the latter are giving no trouble at present. An important reform during the year was the substitution of fixed salaries for the commission which used to be drawn by the Lakpas, or the chief revenue officers of the five circles into which Manipur is divided for fiscal purposes. Another reform was the reduction of the strength of the Manipur State Military Police as a preliminary to further reduction to be made in the event of a battalion of British Military Police being attached to the Agency.

Hill
Tippa.

5. In Hill Tippera unseasonable rain injured the cotton crop in the uplands, and the early rice-crop in the plains, and this, combined with other causes, raised the price of rice to a pitch that occasioned some distress among the hill people; but the test-works that were opened attracted very few persons. The failure of the rice-crop affected the collections, and, in the zamindaris in the Tippera district, suspensions of rent to the amount of over half a lakh were allowed. The health of the people was, on the whole, good and the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants. The dispensaries and the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Agartala, appear to be doing good work and grow in popularity. The services of a member of the Provincial Civil Service were lent to the State during the year for the management of His Highness' estate, Chikla Roshnabad.

Frontier-
tribes.
Mishmis.

6. The blockade against the Chulikattas and the Bebejiyas was continued during the year. Four men of the latter tribe were caught trying to run the blockade and were arrested.

Nagas.

Thefts by Nagas in the neighbourhood of the Inner Line were frequent, and complaints were received from several garden managers. After the close of the year, the Deputy Commissioner went on tour in the Abhaypur mouza and warned the chiefs of the principal *changs* that, if these thefts continued, the Naga paths to the plains would be stopped.

Naga Hills.

The Deputy Commissioner had under consideration a proposal for the annexation of some Sema villages.

Garo Hills.

The special enquiry into Sonaram Sangma's case, ordered by Government and carried out by the Hon'ble Mr. J. C. Arbuthnott, greatly revived the agitation which has been disturbing the hills during the past four years.

Lushai
Hills.

Apart from two petty outrages on the southern border, the year was devoid of political incidents in the Lushai Hills. In consequence of these outrages, the Government of India sanctioned a punitive expedition, but, owing to the lateness of the season when this sanction was communicated operations were postponed until the next cold weather. In order to afford more efficient protection to the border villages, the Military Police outpost at South Vanlaiphai was moved to a site near Sherkor.

Khasi and
Jaintia
Hills.

The Wahadars' continued disregard of the orders of Government prohibiting the use of the railway borrow pits as a channel for the passage of boats led to the establishment of a police outpost in Shella. An enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner into the number of guns held in semi-independent States in the Khasi Hills. The total number was found to be 538. Orders were passed by Government fixing the maxima for the different States. It was again reported that gambling and the consumption of country spirit which is readily and cheaply available was doing much harm to the people.

Other
tribes.

Nothing of importance happened among the other tribes. They behaved well throughout the year.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition
of the peo-
ple.

7. The year was one of considerable hardship to the middle classes who depend on fixed incomes. To these the high prices and the poor crops brought more or less severe distress. For labourers there was generally ample employment but in some places labour was provided. Gratuitous relief was also given to some extent.

To the great majority of the cultivators, however, the year, on the whole, was not unfavourable, and, where jute is grown, the raiyats were exceedingly well off. Wages rose everywhere in the province except in the Surma Valley, where they remained practically stationary.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

8. The collections under Miscellaneous Land Revenue, which amounted to 84·4 per cent. of the current demand and 83·2 per cent. of the total demand, do not compare favourably with those of the preceding year, but, considering the peculiar circumstances of the last two years, the results are not altogether unsatisfactory. Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

9. The continued increase in the number of revenue money orders and the amount of land revenue and cesses thus remitted indicates the growing popularity of the system. The number of rent money orders and the amount covered by them, however, show a marked decrease—a fact which, the Board think, indicates that the relations between the tenants and their landlords were less strained than in former years. Remittances of revenue and rent by money-order.

10. The Sale Law was administered, as usual, with leniency and moderation, and the rule that the sales of one *kist* must be held before the next *kist* day was generally observed. There was only one case in which it was found necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sale on the ground of hardship. Operation of the Sale Law.

11. Although there was a decrease of nearly two thousand in the number of certificates filed during the year, the percentage of disposals fell off in every division. In view, however, of the agricultural conditions of the past two years, the administration of the Department was not in general unsatisfactory. Only in one case was imprisonment resorted to for the realization of Government demands. Certificate Procedure.

12. The experiment of dispensing with the issue of notices of demand under Section 68 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation and of issuing warrants at once in selected areas was continued during the year. Special reports on the results were, however, received only from some of the districts where the experiment was tried, and these were not conclusive. Further reports are awaited. There was a considerable decrease in the number of demand notices issued, and, though orders for the attachment of moveables showed an increase, there was a marked decline in the number of sales both of moveable and immoveable property. Rules for regulating the procedure in cases of ejectment are under the consideration of Government. Coercive measures under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation.

13. The results of the new system of the service of processes through the Presidents of Village Unions introduced in the districts of Dacca and Tippera were not encouraging. The system is, however, in an experimental stage. Processes.

14. The percentage of successful applications for mutation to the actual number of interests on the registers of Eastern Bengal was 3·40 against 3·36 in the preceding year. The system of making enquiries through the panchayats, which was found useful in Mymensingh, was extended during the year to the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Rajshahi and has worked satisfactorily. Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 has been amended by Act I of 1907 of this province. The question of the revision of the forms of Land Registration registers under the amended Act is under the consideration of the Board. Land Registration.

15. The result of the year's work in both portions of the province was unsatisfactory. In Eastern Bengal the number of pending cases remained unaltered, but in Assam it showed an increase. The Board carefully considered the question of limiting the partitions effected under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual referred to in the last year's report, but, in view of the artificial nature of the cadastral villages in Assam and in deference to the opinions of the local officers, have, with the approval of Government, decided to take no action for the present. Partitions.

16. The amount of loans advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act which remained outstanding at the close of the year rose from Rs. 30,829 to Rs. 9,43,354. The increase was due to a larger demand for loans by poor cultivators to tide them over a year of poor crops and consequent distress. Loans.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

17. These societies continued to make steady progress. Their number increased from 21 to 60, and the amount of loans issued by them rose from Rs. 21,485 to Rs. 67,738. These figures are distinctly encouraging, but the societies are at present only in the initial stage, and it cannot yet in all cases be predicted how far they will be able to withstand the determined opposition, which is being offered to them by that class of money-lenders who have for many years kept the cultivating classes in their clutches.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and settlements, Eastern Bengal.

18. The major operations in Eastern Bengal were confined to the districts of Bakarganj, Dacca and Faridpur. The cadastral survey and the completion of the record-of-rights in the Sunderbans were carried out and the work, which remained unfinished in the remaining portions of the Bakarganj district, was practically completed in spite of exceptional difficulties. The traverse survey of the Dacca district was commenced and considerable progress was made. The cost of this survey worked out to Rs. 51.4 per square mile as against Rs. 45 originally estimated by the Government of Bengal. Adverse agricultural conditions and other causes prevented the inception of the cadastral operations in the district of Faridpur, but the necessary preparations were made to undertake them in the year now current and they are actually in progress at the present time. A recent change in procedure has divested the Survey Department in Eastern Bengal of all concern with cadastral survey and record writing which have been transferred to the settlement staff and the result is being carefully watched.

Assam.

In Assam the Survey and Settlement operations in Kamrup and Sibsagar were completed. The assessment in these districts was placed on a satisfactory basis, and it is believed that a great deal was done to rectify the irregularities and inaccuracies of the previous settlement of 1893 and 1894. A feature of these two settlements was the scientific classification of soils introduced by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, and the uniformity of treatment for large areas thus ensured is an earnest of the success of this settlement as a whole. The principles adopted in the re-settlement of these two districts are also being observed in the districts of Darrang and Nowgong, where operations are in progress.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

19. In Eastern Bengal the record is now maintained in a more or less desultory manner in Government and Wards' Estates. A scheme is, however, being worked out for the maintenance of the district record in Chittagong, which will probably be taken as a model for similar schemes throughout the transferred districts. The new Land Records Manual was introduced during the year in all the plains districts of Assam. One of the most noticeable features of the new Manual is the system of recording mutations in the field without any formal application from the parties concerned.

SETTLEMENTS FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlements for special cultivation.

20. The total area settled for special cultivation increased during the year from 13,97,012 to 13,99,262 acres and the revenue demand from Rs. 9,11,403 to Rs. 9,22,914. In Jalpaiguri both the area and the revenue declined, while in Assam they showed an increase.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government, Wards' and Attached Estates.

21. There were one thousand five hundred and fifty-nine estates under Government management during the year. The most important event in connection with these estates was the appointment of a special officer and the necessary staff to effect the colonization of the Bakarganj Sunderbans and the framing of rules for the allotment of lands to raiyats who wish to reside in that locality. The number of wards' and attached estates was fifty. The total collections of rent and cesses in these estates showed an improvement, but the payments on account of revenue and cesses due to Government fell from 98.9 to 95.7 per cent. Certain sections of the Bengal Court of Wards' Act, IX (B.C.) of 1879, were amended during the year by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Act, III of 1907.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

22. There was no serious disturbance in the relations between landlords and tenants during the year, although, in many estates, there was considerable ill-feeling between the two classes, owing, in some cases, to attempts being made to enhance rents illegally, and, in others, to coercive measures being employed to compel the Muhammadan tenants to join in the boycott of British goods. The provisions of

the Bengal Tenancy Act are becoming better known, especially in districts in which operations under Chapter X are in progress; but it is doubtful whether even now the large majority either of tenants or landlords have any but the vaguest idea of its bearing on their relations. Amendments of the Act, similar to those passed in Bengal, are under the consideration of Government.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

23. The first meeting of the Legislative Council of the new province was held at Dacca on the 18th December 1906, and was presided over by Mr. Hare. Two Acts were passed by Council during the year 1906-1907, viz., Act I of 1907 (The Eastern Bengal and Assam Land Registration Amendment Act) and Act II of 1907 (The Eastern Bengal and Assam Disorderly Houses Act). Acts passed.

24. A Bill to amend the Bengal Court of Wards' Act, 1879, was introduced in Council during the year and passed after its close. Bills.

25. Several Acts were extended by the Local Government to various parts of the province. Acts extended.

POLICE.

CIVIL POLICE.

26. With effect from the 1st April 1906, the Secretary of State sanctioned the reorganisation of the superior Police cadre of the province on the lines recommended by the Police Commission. The cadre comprises one Inspector General, three Deputy Inspectors General (two as Range Officers and the third for the charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, Railway and River Police), 28 Superintendents (22 for district charges, one for Personal Assistant to Inspector General of Police, one for Personal Assistant to Deputy Inspector General in charge of Crime and Railways, one for the Railway Police, two for the River Police, and one for the Provincial Training School), 29 Assistant Superintendents, including three provided for deputation, and 12 Deputy Superintendents. Administration.

27. A substantial instalment of the reforms advocated by the Police Commission was introduced during the year. A Criminal Investigation Department and Finger Print Bureau were organised; the improved scale and grading of superior police sanctioned by the Secretary of State was introduced, and seven Deputy Superintendents appointed; further steps were taken towards raising the scale of pay and grading for the inferior police; the armed reserves at Dacca and Mymensingh were strengthened, some other additions to the force were made, and 100 head constables were recruited to replace writer constables; the rules for the supervision of bad characters and for the punishment and rewarding of police officers were revised, and various other administrative matters were dealt with; and, shortly after the close of the year, a training school for Sub-Inspectors and superior police officers was opened at Dacca. This is not an unsatisfactory record of progress, but a great deal still remains to be done. Reforms.

Among the matters which are most urgent may be mentioned the organisation of a River Police, the opening of training schools for constables, and the revision of the office establishments of Superintendents of Police. One training school has been started and the revision of office establishments will, it is hoped, be carried out in the current year, but the organisation of the River Police presents many difficulties and some time must elapse before an effective system for the control of crime on the rivers can be devised and brought into working order.

28. The percentage of police officers and men punished to the actual number entertained was 16.6 and 21.9, respectively. Fewer officers and more men were punished than in the preceding year, but the number of dismissals was greater in both cases. It is to be regretted that, in certain districts, the discipline still leaves much to be desired. Discipline.

29. The administration of the rural police has, for some time past, engaged the earnest attention of the Local Government. The results of the experiment of dissociating *chaukidars* from the regular police and entrusting a greater measure of independence and authority to the village panchayats are disappointing. The system has indeed led to the reporting of a good deal of petty crime that would not otherwise have Rural Police.

been brought to notice. But the delay in giving information and the failure of the village watchmen to co-operate with the investigating police are serious hindrances to the detection and conviction of criminals. Unpunctual payment, emancipation from police control, and subordination to a not over-zealous panchayat, are likely to have a bad effect on a chaukidar's work, but the new system is still in the experimental stage and it will not be safe to condemn it utterly until it has had a longer trial in circumstances more favourable than have been afforded by the disturbed conditions that have prevailed during the past two years.

MILITARY POLICE.

Military
Police.

30. The orders of the Secretary of State on the proposals for the reorganisation of the Military Police were not received and no changes of importance were made during the year. The battalions continued to maintain a high standard of drill and discipline.

CRIME.

Crime.

31. The total number of cognizable offences reported showed a considerable increase. This increase, which was distributed over all classes of offences and over almost all districts, was probably due in part to the prevailing high prices of food-grains and in a great measure also to the general feeling of unrest and consequent imposition on the police of exceptional responsibilities which interfered with the supervision of ordinary criminals. It is disappointing that, even in the districts of Bogra and Mymensingh, in which action against gangs of thieves and dacoits has been most vigorous and successful, there was an increase of serious crime against property. This, however, might have been due to causes of a temporary nature, and the coming year, it is hoped, will show better results.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of
the year.

32. The only alteration effected in the local limits of the Criminal Courts during the year was the transfer of the district of Jalpaiguri from the jurisdiction of the Sessions Judge of Rangpur to that of the Sessions Judge of Dinajpur with effect from the 1st of June 1906. There was a very large increase in the number of criminal cases instituted, and in the number of cases brought to trial before Magistrates. The number of cases committed for trial or referred to the Courts of Session exceeded that of 1905 by forty, but the duration of such trials fell from 41.6 to 40.4 days. The receipts and charges (excluding those for the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts) increased by over forty-seven thousand and a lakh and twenty-eight thousand rupees, respectively.

JAILS.

Adminis-
tration.

33. The year under report witnessed no very important changes in Jail Administration. The assimilation of the rules obtaining in the two parts of the province proceeded slowly. Two sub-jails in Assam were reduced to the status of sub-jails in the Eastern Bengal districts, and the rules regarding convicts sentenced to transportation were revised. The changes require careful consideration, but, now that experience has been gained in the working of both sets of rules, it is hoped that progress will be rapid.

Work of
the year.

34. The number of prisoners confined in the various jails of the province was higher than in the preceding year, as was also the daily average population. The increase was due partly to the large number of offences against property committed in consequence of the prevailing scarcity, and partly to the greater activity of the police and to a larger number of petty crimes reported under the new system of village police administration introduced in the Dacca and Tippera districts. There was a considerable increase both in the number of jail offences and in the percentage of punishments to the average number of convicts. As in the previous year, it was found that, in the majority of jails, the proportion of B class prisoners punished was greater than that of the A class. In consequence of the increase in the daily average number of prisoners, there was a good deal of overcrowding in almost all the jails in Eastern Bengal. Several schemes are afoot for providing the additional accommodation required. The extension of the Nowgong jail has been taken in hand; a new hospital in the Mymensingh jail has been finished; some progress has been made with the additions to the Barisal jail, while it is proposed to enlarge considerably the jails at Comilla and Bogra, which are two of the healthiest in the province. The most satisfactory feature of the year was its extreme healthiness. The proportion of admissions into hospital was the lowest on record, and the number of deaths well below the average of the decade.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

35. The number of suits instituted in the civil courts subordinate to the High Court rose by 1·2 per cent. More than half this excess occurred in contested suits. There was a slight increase in the number of appeals preferred. The increase in institutions, coupled with the smaller outturn of the courts, accounted for the increase of arrears. A satisfactory feature of the year's work, however, was the reduction effected in the number of original suits and appeals pending for more than a year. Subordinate Civil Courts.

REGISTRATION.

36. The clerical establishments of rural offices were fixed according to a definite scale during the year, and the ministerial offices in all Sub-Registry offices made whole-time Government officers. The total number of registrations increased by 8·27 per cent., and the total receipts of the Department by 7·17 per cent. Act I (B.C.) of 1876 has recently been extended to the Assam Valley Districts. Registration.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

37. The number of Municipalities and Municipal institutions increased during the year by one, and their administration was, on the whole, marked by steady progress. The total income increased by Rs. 71,161 and the expenditure by Rs. 24,481, which was distributed over all the main branches of Municipal administration. Considerable attention was paid to the maintenance and construction of water-works. Much progress has already been made in this direction, and many schemes are in various stages of preparation. The conservancy arrangements in most of the municipalities throughout the province continued to show improvement. A prominent feature of the year was the awakening interest shown by the Muhammadan community, in several towns, in civic administration. Municipalities.

38. Both the receipts and expenditure of the District and Local Boards of the province showed a considerable increase. As a result of the grants from Imperial Funds for the improvement of communications and the extension of primary education, considerable progress was made under these heads. Increased expenditure was incurred on the provision of medical relief, on the entertainment of veterinary assistants, and on the maintenance of veterinary dispensaries. A scheme for improving the sanitation of Manikganj in the district of Dacca, and of two unhealthy villages in the district of Mymensingh, on the lines adopted in Patna, was in progress; while an offer made by Government to contribute one-third of the cost of all works for the improvement of the village water-supply, on condition that one-third is contributed by the villagers and the remaining one-third by the local bodies, met with a ready response in several districts. The development of local industries and the extension of technical and industrial education, which afford scope for much useful work, received, however, inadequate attention during the year. District and Local Boards.

MARINE.

39. The number of vessels that entered the Port during the year increased by four only, but the aggregate tonnage of the vessels increased by as much as 34 per cent. The value of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade was nearly double that of the preceding year. Owing to this large increase in trade, the income of the Port Fund rose by 49 per cent. The dredger sanctioned by the Government of India reached Chittagong in March 1907, and its work has proved satisfactory. A length of about 5,700 feet on the right bank of the river below the railway terminal jetties has been revetted, and it has been decided to extend the revetment on this bank to a distance of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in all. One-half of the cost incurred after the 1st April 1907 will be provided by the Port Commissioners and the other half up to a limit of Rs. 9,00,000 by Government from Provincial Funds. The Port of Chittagong.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

40. The proposals for the reorganization of the Department embodied in a memorandum drawn up by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, to which reference was made in last year's report, were generally approved by the Government of India. An Economic Botanist Reorganization of the Department.

and an Agricultural Chemist have been sanctioned for this province and the latter of these officers has already taken up his duties while the former is expected from England soon. A separate Director of Agriculture has been appointed to superintend the increasing work of the Department. The Central Farm at Dacca will be the headquarters of the expert staff, and buildings for the accommodation of these officers and their subordinates are under construction.

Work of
the year.

41. The important subject of the extension of the cultivation of jute to areas suited to it received considerable attention during the year. Experiments made in connection with it were sufficiently successful to justify the belief that, with experience and care, jute can be grown anywhere in Upper Assam, unless weather conditions are specially unfavourable. It is satisfactory to note that the cultivation of the crop is rapidly spreading in the Brahmaputra Valley, and that the number of raiyats who come every year from Eastern Bengal to take up land for the purpose in the districts of Goalpara, Darrang and Nowgong is continually increasing. It is to be regretted that the attempt made to introduce caravonica cotton failed everywhere except at Nowgong and at a small village in the district of Rangpur. The unfavourable results obtained during the year and the fact that previous experiments have led to no appreciable extension of wheat cultivation in the localities where the experiments were tried seem to indicate that wheat has no chance of becoming a staple crop in the plains of Assam. The whole question of the revival of the silk industry in this province is under the consideration of Government.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather
and crops.

42. From an agricultural point of view, the year, though better than its predecessor, was not a satisfactory one. The rainfall, which was above the normal, was badly distributed. There was an unusually heavy fall in the months of July and August followed everywhere by abnormal floods, which caused considerable damage to the early rice and jute crops and retarded the transplantation of *aman* or winter rice. To this succeeded a very dry cold weather, which had an unfavourable effect on the crops of that season; so that, on the whole, the outturn of food crops of the year was below the average. To rice the weather was unfavourable except in Cachar and in some parts of the Assam Valley and the Rajshahi Division. The jute crop is reported to have been up to the average in quantity in most parts of the Dacca Division, and was not far below it elsewhere. But the cutting of the crop was delayed by the floods, which affected the quality of the fibre. Owing, however, to keen demand, prices ruled unprecedentedly high, and made up to the cultivators in the jute districts their losses on other crops. Among minor crops sugarcane seems to have done well. Mustard and *matikalai* suffered from the deficiency of rain in the winter and the mango crop in Malda is said to have been damaged by hail-storms.

FORESTS.

Forests.

43. The greatest difficulty under which the Forest Department in this province labours is the insufficiency of its staff. A scheme has been submitted for the reorganization of the Provincial and Subordinate establishments, but efficient administration cannot be hoped for until the staff of Imperial officers is strengthened.

The total area of the reserves increased by 247 square miles and now stands at 6,250 square miles. With so large an area not under systematic management, one of the most pressing items of work is the preparation of working plans. Substantial progress was made during the year in this direction. Fire protective operations were very successful, and an increased area was protected at a reduced cost. It is gratifying to find that the reduction in the cost per square mile was due to more work having been done in exchange for forest produce. The question of the disposal of the Charduar rubber plantations is still under consideration.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTORIES.

Manufac-
tures.

44. During the year the cultivated area under tea altered but slightly, 9,940 acres of old tea having been abandoned, and 6,280 acres newly planted out. The total outturn for the province showed an increase of nearly 15 million pounds, of which the Assam districts accounted for over 11 million pounds. A favourable season, an increased demand from British colonies and from foreign countries, and a diminished production in Ceylon contributed to the increase. In spite of labour difficulties the prospects of the tea industry in this province may be said to be encouraging.

Mines.

45. The total output of coal from the different coal mines was 285,467 tons, and the production of petroleum in Lakhimpur amounted to 28,97,990 gallons. In both cases an increase was shown. This is satisfactory as indicating a gradual development of the mineral resources of the province.

46. The total number of factories at the close of the year was 99. Thirty-four new factories were brought under the operation of the Act, while seventeen were removed from the list. The average daily number of operatives was considerably in excess of the number employed in the previous year, but there was a marked diminution in the percentage of the number of children under employ. The sanitary arrangements of the factories were satisfactory, and the general health of the operatives was, on the whole, good. No prosecutions were instituted under the Act. Factories.

TRADE.

47. The value of the sea-borne trade increased during the year by 83·8 per cent. and amounted to Rs. 861·02 lakhs. This increase was shared both by the foreign or non-Indian and the coasting trades. Sea-borne trade.

48. Of the foreign imports, which showed an increase of 35 per cent. in value, the most important were the railway materials and iron which represented about half the total value; and next in importance were cotton piece-goods, tea chests, and salt. Eighty-five per cent. of the total imports came from the United Kingdom. The exports, which rose in value from Rs. 287·68 to Rs. 390·22 lakhs, were practically confined to jute and tea. The development of trade in these articles would have been much greater but for the defective arrangements between the River Steamer Companies and the Assam-Bengal Railway Company for the traffic from Narayanganj *via* Chandpur to Chittagong and for the insufficient supply of railway wagons. It is worth noticing that the export of rice and paddy, which at one time was considerable, has totally disappeared with the failure of the crops in Eastern Bengal during the last two years. The United Kingdom is the largest importer of Indian goods. Foreign trade.

49. Of the trade with other provinces and parts of India, that by sea was valued at Rs. 432·14 lakhs, showing an increase of Rs. 281·37 lakhs, or 187·1 per cent. This increase was due to large importations of rice from Burma which were necessitated by the scarcity which prevailed in this province during the year. Exports to Calcutta fell off as the carriage of half-pressed jute *via* Chittagong to the Hooghly was interfered with by the congestion caused by the rice traffic. Coasting trade.

50. The total value of the registered trans-frontier trade in 1906-1907 was practically double that of the previous year and amounted to Rs. 38,21,832, of which about 92 per cent. represented trade with Bhutan, Manipur, and Hill Tippera. The value of the imports into the province was three times as great as the value of the exports from the province. Frontier trade.

51. The trade of this province by rail and river was valued at 4,961 lakhs of rupees, of which 1,867 lakhs represented the value of imports and 3,094 lakhs the value of exports. About 54 per cent. of the registered imports and the same proportion of the exports were carried by river. Rail and River-borne trade.

PUBLIC WORKS.

BUILDINGS.

52. A combined Armoury and Sergeant Instructor's quarters were constructed at Nazira in the Sibsagar district. Temporary extra accommodation was provided for the Accountant-General's office and a building for the Telegraph Subdivisional Office and Training class at Gauhati completed. Land was acquired for Telegraph and Post offices at Dacca, Patiya and Comilla. Imperial works.

53. Extensive repairs to the Government House at Shillong were in progress, and petty additions and improvements were carried out in the temporary Government House at Dacca. The staff quarters at Dacca were completed; a site was acquired for the Government House at Chittagong, and 762 acres of land were under acquisition for the new civil station at Dacca. Additional accommodation was provided for several of the Civil and Criminal Courts in the province, and attention was paid to the housing of Government officials. The School of Engineering at Dacca was completed, while the Arts College, hostel and subsidiary buildings (including the Curzon Hall) in the same town were well advanced. Additions and improvements were made, or were in progress, in many of the jails; a few new buildings were constructed for the police, while a dispensary was built at Dimapur and two male wards were added to the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur. Provincial works.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

54. Under "Miscellaneous Public Improvements" the most important works were the improvements of the Gauhati water-works and the acquisition of the site or the new civil station at Jorhat. Improvements to navigation on the Dhaleswari Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

river were still in progress, as were also the deepening of an old tank at Dimapur and the construction of four masonry wells (contribution works) in the Sylhet Municipality.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

55. Several important works in the Naga Hills and Surma Valley Divisions were in hand or completed. Improvements to the Assam Trunk Road between Lakhimpur and Fakirganj, to the Dhubri-Kachugaon road, to the North Trunk road, to the Gauhati-Shillong road and the Shillong-Cherra road were in progress. Surveys were made for a road through the Tondoo forest in the Duars to connect the Nagra Kata district with the railway at Ramshahi Hat. The construction of a new road through the Tezu Valley in the Naga Hills and the clinometer survey of a cart-road from Mau-phlang to Lengar Bazar were completed. In the Lushai Hills, the Aijal-Falam road was in progress and the Aijal-Dwarband road between Kanglai and Kolosib realigned.

IRRIGATION.

Irrigation.

56. A subsidy was paid to Messrs. Kilburn & Co. for dredging shoals in the Buriganga river. Some work was done in training the Dhubri river between Therria and Companyganj. A sluice culvert of 2 spans of 10 feet each was constructed on the Jorhat State Railway line. Considerable expenditure was incurred in strengthening the 1st section of the Brahmaputra bund and in raising the bund. The five embankments in Eastern Bengal received general repairs during the year.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Railways and Tramways

57. During the year the control of the Bengal Duars Railway was transferred from the Government of Bengal to this Government. The total mileage of railways in this province was 1,641.95 miles against 1,641.94 miles in the previous year. The surveys in progress were for a line from Mymensingh to Lengar Bazar *via* Netrakona by the Eastern Bengal State Railway and for an extension from Talap station on the main line to Saikhoaghat by the Dibru-Sadiya Railway.

The Railway Board were addressed by this Government in connection with the railway requirements of this province with special reference to ascertaining the best connection between the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway and Bhairab Bazar.

Proposals for the construction of a branch line of railway from Rajabhatkhowa to Jaigoan and to connect Barisal with Calcutta by a broad gauge railway *via* Gaurnadi and Nawapara on the Eastern Bengal State Railway were received and submitted to the Railway Board.

A proposal to open a tramway from the Borbam tea garden to Amguri station on the Assam-Bengal Railway was sanctioned by the Local Government on certain conditions.

The net earnings of the Jorhat State Railway rose from Rs. 2,458 to Rs. 3,252. The Tezpur-Balipara and the Dibru-Sadiya Railways returned 7.17 and 4.63 per cent., respectively, on their capital outlay, against 6.58 and 4.95 in 1905. No work was done on the Dwara-Therria Railway for want of funds.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

FINANCE.

Statistics.

58. The gross revenue of the province showed an increase of Rs. 8,37,713. The bulk of this increase occurred under Land Revenue, Salt, Excise, Assessed Taxes, Forests, Registration, Jails and Education. Receipts under Customs, Miscellaneous and Contribution from Provincial to Local, on the other hand, showed a decrease.

The total expenditure of the province amounted to Rs. 3,03,53,093 or Rs. 40,74,736 in excess of that of the previous year. The more important increases occurred under Land Revenue, Stamps, Forests, Registration, General Administration, Law and Justice, Jails, Police, Education, Medical, and other Public Works.

LAND REVENUE.

Land Revenue.

59. The total current demand increased during the year from Rs. 1,84,50,918 to Rs. 1,86,61,491. The total collections, current and arrears, amounted to 94.88 per cent. of the total demand of Rs. 1,95,71,399. The percentage in the previous year was 94.86.

CUSTOMS.

60. Mainly owing to the reduction of the duty on salt and to the smaller receipts of Customs. export duty, the net revenue from customs decreased, during the year, from Rs. 10,57,348 to Rs. 10,18,784, and the total income of the Chittagong port from Rs. 10,85,199 to Rs. 10,49,293. A sum of Rs. 60 was realized as customs fines for the infringement of the rules under the Sea Customs Act. There were no cases under the Indian Merchandise Act (IV of 1899).

SALT.

61. The most important administrative events of the year were the abolition of the Salt. Rawana system under Act VII of 1864, the reduction of salt duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund with effect from the 20th March 1907, and the opening of salt traffic in Assam. The salt trade was hardly affected by the boycott agitation, imports during the year having increased by 16·55 per cent., and the sales of imported salt by 63 per cent. Contrary to expectation, the average whole price of salt was 11 pies higher than in the previous year. This was due, to some extent, to the fact that, owing to the *swadeshi* agitation, there was a greater demand for *karkatch*, which sold at higher prices, than for *panga* or boiled salt. The poorer classes, however, continued to use the latter kind, and benefited by the reduction of duty. The net revenue showed a decrease of 83 per cent.

EXCISE.

62. The net revenue from excise, which amounted to Rs. 61,71,372, showed an Excise. increase of more than two per cent. over that of the previous year. Practically the whole of this increase occurred under the heads "Country Spirits" and "Opium." There was a decrease under "Ganja", due to the unfavourable settlements for 1907-1908, which affected the collection of advance fees. The contract distillery system in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts worked satisfactorily and the extension of the system to the other plains districts of Assam has recently been sanctioned. There was a considerable reduction in the number of persons arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium laws, but the percentage of convictions was almost the same. In order to devise means for the prevention of smuggling opium into Arracan from and through Chittagong, a conference between some officers of this Government and the Burma authorities was held at Akyab, as a result of which it was agreed that the matter should be thoroughly investigated by expert officers, and that the preventive staffs of both provinces should work in co-operation. The question of controlling the manufacture of spirit in the Khasi Hills is still under consideration, and the increased consumption of opium in that district is being made the subject of a special enquiry.

STAMPS.

63. The revenue collected under the Stamp and the Court-fees Acts increased Statistics. during the year by Rs. 2,32,886 and amounted to Rs. 89,59,418. This increase occurred under both heads.

INCOME-TAX.

64. The number of assesseees increased during the year by about 5 per cent., and the net collections by Rs. 78,530 or by about 8 per cent. The percentage of collections on the final demand was 99 per cent. It is satisfactory to note that the prescribed standard was attained in every district throughout the province. Income-tax.

FOREST REVENUE.

65. The gross revenue from forests amounted to Rs. 13,09,480 and the expenditure to Rs. 7,10,734. Compared with the figures of the previous year, the surplus (Rs. 5,98,746) showed an advance of Rs. 19,822. With the exception of Goalpara, every division worked at a profit. Forest Revenue.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

66. A new financial settlement was made with this province for a period of three years with effect from 1906-1907. Under the terms of this settlement the principal heads of revenue and the corresponding charges have been divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, with the exception of Provincial Rates and Registration which have been made entirely Provincial. Charges for large settlement operations and recoveries of their cost are Imperial, while the rest of the land revenue charges are Provincial. Provincial Revenues.

The provincial revenue account of the year opened with a balance of Rs. 62,00,000; receipts amounted to Rs. 2,35,32,166 and expenditure to Rs. 2,35,83,333, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 61,48,833. There was an increase in receipts under Land

Revenue, Stamps, Assessed Taxes, Registration and other Public Works, and there were savings under Police, Marine, Education, Public Works and Minor Departments, but these were counterbalanced by the excess expenditure under the heads Courts of Law, Jail, General Administration, and Contribution to Local.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

67. The total receipts of the Incorporated and the Excluded Local Funds amounted to Rs. 45,88,409 and Rs. 20,12,539, respectively, and the expenditure to Rs. 44,88,830 and Rs. 19,72,124. The District Post Fund was abolished with effect from the 1st April 1906, from which date all postal charges have been imperialized. The Mohsin Endowment Fund account has been separated from that of the main fund in Bengal and a sum of Rs. 30,000 assigned as the share of this province.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSSES.

Statistics.

68. Both the Road and Public Works cesses were levied at the maximum rate of oneanna per rupee in all the districts of Eastern Bengal where Act IX (B.C.) of 1880 is in force. There was an increase of Rs. 92,255 in the current demand of these cesses due mainly to revaluations in the districts of Pabna, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Noakhali, Dacca, Faridpur and Mulla. The collections exceeded those of the preceding year by over a lakh.

In Assam, the current demand for local rates increased by Rs. 24,919, owing to revision of assessment and new settlements, and the total collections, including advance payments, amounted to Rs. 7,44,033 or 102.53 per cent. of this demand.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics.

69. The provincial birth-rate during the year was below the normal, and, although it is impossible to assert that this fall had any connection with the high price of food-grains which prevailed during the last two years, it is interesting to note that it was least in the districts where the scarcity was least felt. The provincial death-rate was practically the same as the quinquennial average. In the early months of the year the cholera epidemic of 1905 continued in four of the Assam Valley districts. The cause in each case was the drinking of contaminated water. The mortality from dysentery and diarrhoea was slightly higher than the decennial ratio, but deaths from fever and *kalá-ázár* showed a most satisfactory diminution. The latter disease is said to be rapidly disappearing from the Nowgong district. During the year a memorial was presented to the Local Government by the Duars Planters' Association, pointing out the prevalence of black-water fever, and asking that a special enquiry should be made. A preliminary enquiry was made by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and the Government of India have decided to have the subject completely investigated by the Central Research Institute. Several drainage schemes are in various stages of progress. The scheme for the drainage of a large tract round Gaibanda has been sanctioned, while the Chalan and Rangpur schemes are still under consideration.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

70. The number of labourers under Act VI of 1901 showed a considerable decrease; but the shortness was more than made up by an increase in the number of free labour adults employed. The Government of India decided during the year that the Act should be withdrawn from the Surma Valley and from the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara, and the Labour Committee appointed in February 1906 came to the conclusion that after a few years its withdrawal from the remaining districts in the Assam Valley should be possible. Mortality among immigrants during the journey to Assam showed an increase, but on gardens the rate was lower. Relations between employers and labourers were on the whole excellent, and it is a matter for congratulation that causes of friction lessen year by year.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable Dispensaries.

71. The number of dispensaries in the province increased during the year by five only, but the number of patients increased by over a lakh. As the year was healthier than its predecessor, this improvement in attendance would seem to indicate that the dispensaries are growing in popularity. The number of women treated in purely female dispensaries fell off, owing, it was reported, to accidental causes; in other

dispensaries, however, it showed a satisfactory increase of over seven thousand. The floating dispensary on the river Kumar in the district of Faridpur proved a failure and was closed.

72. The number of inmates in the two lunatic asylums of the province showed a slight increase, but in the province and in each of the asylums the daily average of sick, as well as the percentages of deaths to daily average strength and to admissions, was lower than in the preceding year. There was over-crowding in both the asylums. In the Dacca Asylum a tubercle ward is under construction, which, when completed, will relieve the pressure and admit of the segregation of tubercle cases. In the Tezpur Asylum another male ward, in addition to the one under construction, is being arranged for. Lunatic Asylums.

SANITATION.

73. The Dacca Conservancy scheme was approved during the year and substantial progress will, it is hoped, be made during the current year; a project to supply the inhabitants of Narayanganj with filtered water was sanctioned by the Local Government and is under construction; while various schemes for the improvement of the water-supply and the drainage system in many of the larger towns of the province are under consideration. It is satisfactory to observe that local bodies generally displayed increased interest in sanitation and spent more money in improving it. There was a substantial increase in the sale of pice-packets of quinine, but there is still room for extension, especially in the districts where malarial fever is most prevalent. Much useful work was done by the Sanitary Board, and rules which will enable that body to take the initiative in schemes of improvement are under consideration. The Government of India have been asked to sanction the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer for the province. Sanitation.

VACCINATION.

74. The scheme combining the Assam with the Eastern Bengal inspecting staff into a Provincial Service was approved by the Local Government and came into force with effect from 1st April 1907. Though the total number of vaccinations showed a considerable decrease during the year, it was still well above the average of the last decade. It is satisfactory to note that two-thirds of the total infant population of the province were successfully vaccinated. Deaths from small-pox were fewer than the average of the previous five years. Vaccination.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

75. A scheme has been sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India for considerably strengthening the inspecting agency of the province. When funds permit of the scheme being brought into full operation a much-needed relief will be afforded. Little or nothing has, however, yet been done for the inspection of girls' schools and for the general encouragement of female education. There is admittedly a large scope for female agency in this direction, and, until one or two Inspectresses are appointed, the inspecting staff of the province cannot be said to be complete. Effect was given during the year to the scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India for the reorganisation of the Provincial and the Subordinate Educational Services. These services have now been placed on a satisfactory basis, and will, it is hoped, attract the best students of our University. General.

76. During the year there was an increase of 1 per cent. in the number of educational institutions and of 3 per cent. in the number of pupils attending them. It is satisfactory to note that there was a further improvement in respect of the education of the Muhammadans: the number of Muhammadan pupils having increased by 6·8 per cent. It is hoped that this hopeful sign indicates a real and lasting awakening on the part of this community to the advantages of education. One of the urgent requirements of the province is some adequate provision for the training of teachers, both male and female. Two officers (a Principal for the contemplated Training College and a head master for the practising school) have been recruited in England and the college will be started within a very short time. The education of females made good progress during the year, the number of girls' schools having increased by 9·2 per Statistics.

cent. and the number of pupils attending them by 10 per cent. Encouraging as these results are, the proportion of female students to the total number of girls of a school-going age (3·5) is still insignificant; and the need for patient and continued effort and for the active co-operation of the Hindu and Muhammadan communities remains undiminished.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature
and the
Press.

77. The total number of books registered during the year was 134. Ten Anglo-Vernacular and 34 Vernacular newspapers were published in the province.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæo-
logy.

78. The most important works completed during the year were those in connection with the Sona Musjid, the Lotan Mosque and the Qadam Rasul in Gaur, and the Qutub Shahi Mosque and the Eklakhi Mausoleum in Pandua. Considerable progress was also made towards the restoration of the columns at Dimapur and of the vestibule and the temple at Hajo.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

79. The Veterinary Department in this province, while performing much useful work, did not progress in organization to the extent that was hoped for, as the sanction of the Government of India to Sir Bampfylde Fuller's proposals was not received during the year. Provisional arrangements, however, were made by the Director of Agriculture to cope with urgent work. One of the most promising features of the work during the year was the readiness with which the Surma Valley Tea Association utilized Government assistance in combating the ravages of rinderpest throughout the Surma Valley. Many of the Local Boards in Assam also came forward and availed themselves of the services of properly qualified assistants. As a result of the negotiations with the Government of Bengal for the regular supply of trained assistants to this province, it was decided during the year that this Government should contribute annually Rs. 27,665 towards the up-keep of the Belgachia College, Calcutta, in return for which it would be entitled to fill one-third of the vacancies among the students. It is hoped that this arrangement will help, in the course of the next two or three years, to increase the supply of officers, which is the most serious bar to the progress of the Department.

PART II.
THE REPORT.



REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1906-1907.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1906-1907.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.

SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.

SECTION 3.—Form of Administration.

SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements.

SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.

SECTION 6.—Details of the Last Census, Tribes and Languages.

See—General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, Pages 1—98.

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

1. No administrative changes of special importance were introduced during the year. Such minor changes as occurred will be noticed in the chapters dealing with the branch of administration with which they are concerned.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Feudatory States.

MANIPUR.

Tribute:—Rs. 50,000 annually; Population (1901):—284,465; Gross revenue:—Rs. 4,21,437; Military:—180 Military Police; Products:—Rice, dal, vegetables of various kinds, India-rubber, wax, tea-seed, and other forest products, cattle, ponies and buffaloes; Manufactures:—Cotton cloth (fine and coarse), silk cloth (fine and coarse), brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and ordinary Indian jewellery, some leather work, and a coarse kind of salt; Minerals:—Iron-ore, limestone, copper and salt, of which only salt and limestone are now worked.

Raja:—Chura Chand Singh, aged 21 years 11 months; caste, Kshatriya Hindu; no heir. Principal members of family—(1) Ramananda Singh (aged 79), Moirang Ningthow; (2) Dumbra Singh (aged 35), eldest brother of Raja; (3) Dimbha Singh (aged 33), second brother of Raja; (4) Chandra Hash Singh (aged 31), third brother of Raja; (5) Degendra Singh (aged 22), step brother of Raja.

2. His Highness the Raja completed his second year's training with the Imperial Cadet Corps on 31st March, and has been permitted to resign his appointment therein, retaining the right to wear the uniform of the corps.

During the year arrangements were made for entrusting the administration of the State to His Highness and a Darbar, and, on the 15th of May of this year, the Superintendent made over charge to the newly constituted authorities. The latter have taken over the State in a sound financial position with a balance of $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs to its credit, a normal revenue of about Rs. 4,20,000 and an expenditure of four lakhs, allowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for Public Works. The revenue from forests is falling off, but the resurvey of the State and the opening of the Jiri reserve to settlers may be expected to bring in a substantial addition to the land-revenue.

3. Good progress was made with the disarmament of the hill tribes, and the latter are giving no trouble at present. The difficulty of maintaining an efficient control over the diverse tribes scattered among the hills of Manipur with the very small funds and the limited staff at the disposal of the State is very great, and, as the people acquire civilisation and come more into contact with the central authority, some increase in both staff and expenditure will doubtless be necessary; but the development in this direction must be gradual. The newly-started hill schools will, it is hoped, prove useful and exercise a civilising influence.

PHYSICAL
AND
POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY.
General
condition
of the
people.

4. The year was not a prosperous one for Manipur and the rise in the price of rice and the steps taken to check its export deserve notice. The purchasing power of a rupee in Manipur is far greater than in the neighbouring British districts, and 15 annas a maund, the price of paddy in March 1906, was considered high. This year it rose to Re. 1-10 a maund, and would no doubt have gone higher had not the Superintendent set a limit to the amount to be exported. The step was rendered necessary by the difficulty of communication with other rice-growing areas.

Civil and
criminal
justice.

5. The increase in civil litigation is remarkable, the number of suits instituted having risen from 2,021 to 3,588. Though the Superintendent comments on the large number of cases of house-breaking and cattle-theft, the returns do not appear to show any increase of these forms of crime, nor were the police much more than normally unsuccessful in bringing the offenders to justice.

Medical.

6. The returns from the Imphal and Morang dispensaries show a satisfactory increase in the number of patients, both in-door and out-door. It is proposed to open two more dispensaries, one at Mao and the other at Thobal.

Education.

7. Education has made fair progress. The Johnstone School has been enlarged so as to accommodate 200 pupils. A girls' school and a Sanskrit *tol* have been opened at Imphal while nine new *patshalas* have been started in the valley. The number of pupils rose from 2,414 to 2,716.

Reforms.

8. An important reform during the year was the substitution of fixed salaries at the rate of Rs. 70 a month for the commission which used to be drawn by the Lakpas, or revenue officers of the 5 "pannas" or districts, into which Manipur is divided for fiscal purposes. Another important reform was the reduction of the strength of the Military police from 330 of all ranks to 180. The step is preliminary to a further reduction to be made in the event of British Military Police being attached to the agency.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Area :—4,086 square miles ; Chief products :—Rice and cotton ; Population (1901) :—173,325 ; Revenue from State :—Rs. 8,08,616 ; Revenue from zamindari in British territory :—Rs. 8,00,781 ; Military force :—334 infantry ; Present Raja :—Radha Kishore Deb Barman Manikya ; born, 1857 ; family, Indo-Chinese, but the Rajas have taken the status of the Kshatriya caste ; residence :—Agartala ; has male heir.]

Adminis-
tration.

9. Two important changes in the administration occurred during the year. Babu Ramani Mohan Chatterjee resigned his appointment as Minister and his predecessor, Rai Uma Kanta Dass Bahadur, was re-called to fill the post ; and the services of Babu Prosanna Kumar Dass Gupta, a member of the Provincial Civil Service, were lent to the State for the management of His Highness' estate, Chakla Roshnabad. No mention has been made in the Report for the year if the Jubraj and Kumar Brojendra Kishore continued to take part in the administration of the State. It is a matter of regret that the Raja, Jubraj and the Minister made no tours during the year. The Superintendent of Police, who alone, among the principal officials, appears to have moved about freely, was an Inspector in Government Service lent to the State ; he has now reverted to his ordinary duties.

General
condition
of the peo-
ple.

10. Unseasonable rain injured the cotton crop in the uplands and the early rice-crop in the plains, and this, combined with other causes, raised the price of rice to a pitch that occasioned some distress among the hill people ; but the test works that were opened attracted very few persons. The failure of the rice-crop affected the collections, and in the zamindaris in the Tippera district suspensions of rent to the amount of over half a lakh were allowed. The receipts from the tax on exports of cotton and oilseeds also fell off considerably. The result was to reduce the ordinary revenue from Rs. 16,77,321 to Rs. 16,09,397. The receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 16,48,178, and the expenditure to Rs. 17,37,790 ; but a net sum of Rs. 1,54,193 was paid in liquidation of liabilities, and this was met from the accumulated balances.

During the year cholera broke out in an epidemic form in some parts of the sadar, Khowai and Udaipur Divisions ; but, owing to the timely arrangements made for giving medical aid to the people in the affected localities, the mortality was not large. Small-pox also made its appearance in some parts and did considerable damage.

Nine hundred and twenty-three families immigrated into, and 841 families emigrated from, the State.

11. Little further information is available as to the separation of the Police and Revenue establishments. It is understood that the police still assist in the collection of the revenue to some extent.

12. The number of primary schools is increasing rapidly, but the number of pupils grows more slowly. Education appears to be still very backward among the Tripuras and Kukis, and is most advanced among the Thakurs and the Bengali Hindus. The people are not much inclined to technical education, and the condition of the Woodburn Artizan School at Agartola is far from satisfactory.

13. The dispensaries, which increased by two, and the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Agartola, appear to be doing good work and grow in popularity. The out-door patients treated at these institutions during the year numbered 49,601 and the in-door patients 510. The female ward attached to the Hospital at Agartola, which owes its origin to the munificence of Maharani Tulsibati, has been a great boon to the people.

Frontier Tribes.

BHUTIAS.

14. The usual fairs were held at Darranga and Subankhata during the months of January to March, and were attended by 2,000 and 200 Bhutias, respectively. The latter fair has decreased considerably in importance owing to the fact that the greater part of the business in lac is now transacted at Darranga.

15. From Bhutan Proper Bhutias came down as usual through Udalguri and Kherkeria about the middle of January last and returned about the middle of March.

16. The usual yearly *posa* was presented by the Deputy Commissioner to the Gelongs of Towang at Udalguri. The Kariapara fair was held from the middle of January for about two months. The conduct of the Bhutias was satisfactory. There was no friction during the year under report, except in one case in which 5 coolies of the Kalong tea-garden were detained by Bhutias of Ruprai. No action was taken, as the coolies themselves were held to be entirely to blame for their misfortunes.

The Thebengia and Charduar Bhutias also received their *posa* at Tezpur. They presented Government with blankets, yak tails, and spices in return.

AKAS.

17. Both the Kapaschar and Hazarikhoa Akas came down to take their *posa*. The latter presented Government with blankets in exchange.

DAFLAS.

18. The Daflas received their *posa* as usual. There was only one complaint. It was preferred against the hill Daflas by the manager of the Singlijan tea estate in the Darrang district, but, as the incident was of no importance, no action was taken.

Several batches of men, women and children of this tribe came down from the hills to settle in the Lakhimpur district.

No complaint of any sort was made against the Apa Tanangs during the year.

MIRIS.

19. These tribes were well behaved, and there was nothing of importance to record.

The Togo and Kajum Gams came with numbers of their tribesmen to tap rubber and receive their *posa*. As the tapping of rubber was prohibited on account of the mehals being closed during the year, they were ordered not to tap rubber in the Government forests. They complained that their livelihood had been taken from them by this order.

ABORS.

20. The Doba Abors, also known as Gallongs or Gachi Miris, behaved satisfactorily and came in as usual to receive their *posa*.

PHYSICAL
AND
POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY.

Police.
Education.

Hospitals.

Bhutias
visiting
Kamrup.

Bhutias
visiting
Darrang.

Bhutias
from
Towang.

Kapas-
char and
Hazarik-
khoe Akas.

Daflas.

Apa
Tanangs.

Gachi,
Panibotia
and Tarbo-
tia Miris.

Saraks.

Doba
Abors.

21. As regards this tribe Mr. Williamson reported as follows :—

This tribe has had the reputation in past years of being turbulent and of harassing British subjects living between the Poba and Dijnur rivers. Personally, I have found them an independent lot, which is natural, but at the same time quite easy to get on with. These people require firm treatment and as long as we abstain from treating them firmly, they will continue to be a nuisance to their neighbours.

This tribe gave some trouble :—

- (a) In January last, certain Assamese settlers on the north bank close to the Brahmaputra laid a complaint at the Laimekuri guard that, while away in their fields, some men who, the local Miris said, belonged to Lekong had demanded money from their wives. As this had not been given, the Lekong men had taken some brass cooking utensils away.
- (b) A party from Lekong took some property in January last from the house of a runaway Mishmi slave settled at Poba. The Lekong men say they simply asked for "food," and it was given them by the Mishmi's wife.
- (c) An employé of the Sissi saw mills was robbed in February last on a sand bank in the middle of the Brahmaputra, when the hillmen were returning in boats from Dibrugarh. The complainant could not say from what village the offenders came ; but it is quite possible they also belonged to Lekong.
- (d) At the beginning of April certain men of Depi (Passi Minyongs) visited the timber camp of a contractor working for the Sissi mills at Jamjing. They demanded Rs. 30 from his muharrir, as the Sissi saw mills had not paid for permission to cut timber as had been customary. They threatened to drive the muharrir away, unless the contractor paid up on his next visit to the camp. They demanded food and the muharrir had to hand over two maunds of rice.

22. Mr. Williamson further reported as follows :—

In December and February I visited the Padam village of Bomjur. In 1894 the Bomjur-Padams were ordered to vacate the site of their villages, as their presence so far inside British territory was objectionable. In 1896 this prohibited site was visited by the Assistant Political Officer, who found that it had been vacated and the village removed to its present site, which had not been visited until this year. I find the present site to be about a quarter of a mile from the prohibited site and in British territory. I also find that in late years some of the villagers have occupied a site which is further inside British territory than the site prohibited in 1894.

In January Dambuk was visited and in March Padu and Membo. None of these villages had been visited since the expedition of 1893-94. I had little difficulty in persuading the headmen to sanction my entering their villages, as I dispensed with an escort. In the case of Dambuk, the headmen voluntarily came down to my camp on the Dibong and asked me to go up to see their village. Each village visited supplied me with the necessary transport, both going and returning.

The Padam settlement of Sibiya on the Dibong which pays poll-tax is on the increase. This increase may, I think, lead to complications. As this settlement increases in size, its requirements as regards land for cultivation will also increase. The result will be that the belt of land at the foot of the hills which is in British territory, but is cultivated by the independent Padams, will be encroached on by the settlers. This belt of land we claimed as British territory after the expedition of 1893-94. There is, however, no record to show that any attempt has ever been made to enforce our right to it, and it therefore will not be surprising if we find that our claim has never been treated seriously. This settlement has always been viewed with disfavour by the Padams on account of its proximity to their villages. They fear that their slaves will be able to escape to it with ease, and, as already mentioned, that the settlers may encroach on their lands. I have just received a report that a few days ago 11 settlers were taken away from Sibiya by villagers of Membo. These settlers came to Sibiya in 1905 and consist of people from Milang and Komkar, two villages beyond the Padam country. These villages, I am told, are not allowed to trade direct with the plains by the Padams, and their presence at the Sibiya has therefore been resented. The reason for the present action taken by Membo is said to be due to the new arrivals having cultivated land in the belt at the foot of hills which the villages of Silluk and Membo claim. The headmen of Membo and Silluk have been sent for, and after hearing their side of the story a report will be submitted.

MISHMIS.

23. It was mentioned in last year's report that, owing to their failure to intercept the Bebejiyas when passing through their country and capture some murderers, a blockade was maintained against this tribe. The blockade was continued throughout the year, but certain headmen with their villagers were allowed to trade at Sadiya as a special concession.

24. In the frontier Tribe Report for 1904-1905 mention was made of certain Thibetans having settled in the Mishmi Hills near the Thibet Frontier. Mr. Williamson made enquiries and reported as follows :—

Three settlements were found at Lopo, Ki-phui-li, and Matapo. These three villages are near one another, and are situated ten days from Nizamghat on the Di river, which is a western

tributary of the Dibong. The Thibetans brought their women and children ; also cattle for ploughing, as the country occupied is said to be flat and suitable for plough cultivation. Constant collisions are reported to have taken place between the Thibetans and Chalikattas, with the result that the Thibetans had to vacate the Mishmi Hills at the beginning of last year.

25. The tribe was blockaded throughout the year for the murders at Dikrang in July 1905. In July 1906, four Bebejiyas from Chetali were caught trying to run the blockade. One of them, Jemadi, was the uncle of Pongon, the leader of the party which committed the murders. These four men were detained in jail at Dibrugarh, where three of them died. The fourth was released in August.

26. As usual, many of this tribe visited Sadiya. They gave no trouble during the year.

KHAMTIS AND SINGPHOS.

27. The Khamtis in North Lakhimpur behaved well. No complaints were made against them.

28. The conduct of this tribe was good. Mr. Williamson in May 1906 visited the villages on the Tengapani.

29. The conduct of the Singphos was good. A garden coolie at Ledo was kidnapped in September last by a Singpho and a Rangpang Naga with the object of selling him as a slave. The coolie was rescued and the Singpho and Rangpang arrested. They were sentenced to imprisonment at Dibrugarh, where they died.

NAGAS.

30. There was no complaint against these people during the year.

31. The Chiefs of Haruthu (subordinate to Joboka) and Noagam *changs* paid visits to the Deputy Commissioner, and the usual presents were exchanged.

32. Thefts by Nagas in the neighbourhood of the Inner Line were frequent, and complaints were received from several garden managers. The paddy crop in the hills was not good, and this was no doubt the chief cause of the trouble given. After the close of the year, the Deputy Commissioner went on a tour in the Abhaypur mauza and sent for the chiefs of the principal *changs* and warned them that, if these thefts continued, the Naga paths to the plains would be stopped.

NAGA HILLS.

33. The trans-frontier tribes were friendly throughout the year.

34. A list of raids and other matters of political importance which occurred during the year across the frontier is given below :—

- (1) In last May, four men of the Sangtam village stole a cow from Mangaki's village. They were ordered to pay back five cows, and these were given.
- (2) In June 1906, Litam village raided on Alisibo, and the latter lost three heads. The raid was committed in revenge for Alisibo having allowed passage to a war party from Char through their village.
- (3) Again in June 1906, the Sema village of Litsemi raided on Huromi. The latter having been warned by Ghuvishu, who betrayed Litsemi's confidence, surrounded the Litsemi men, taking one head without any loss to themselves.
- (4) In July 1903, a raiding party from Yongia, Pungu, and Monguyi attacked Mangdi Imbong. They found all the people in their fields and took 8 heads. The raiding party had sixty guns, believed to have been borrowed from Tablung. Five days after this, men from the same villages met a Mangdi man and his wife on the path and killed them, taking their heads.
- (5) In January last, ten men, of Kehomi ambuscaded and wounded two out of five traders from Seromi as they were returning between Sotokurmi and Hopo. The place of occurrence is within a day's march of the frontier.
- (6) The Trans-Dikhu village of Tongsa paid a fine of Rs. 80 imposed on them for stealing a cow from Lorian, and Lorian was fined Rs. 200 for exaggerating the occurrence and for beating some Tongsa men whom they found fishing in the Dikhu shortly before the theft of the cow. The fine imposed on Lorian was paid.
- (7) The naked Naga village of Kongan, was visited during the year to settle some differences between them and the Assam Company about coal and oil concessions in Kongan land.

- (8) A man of Chekrokezoma, a revenue-paying village on the right bank of the Tizu, was seized and confined by the independent Aishan Kuki village of Kanjam. The case has been settled with a fine on the headman of Kanjam village.

GARO HILLS.

35. The special enquiry into Sonaram's case, ordered by Government and carried out by the Honourable Mr. J. C. Arbuthnott, greatly revived the agitation which has been disturbing the hills during the past four years. Large sums are being collected by Sonaram's emissaries, and his influence has been felt throughout the whole of the northern half of the district (in the south little or no interest is shown).

LUSHAI HILLS.

36. Apart from two petty outrages on the southern border, the year was devoid of political incidents. Both these outrages were committed by men of Zongling, a village about seven miles south of our southern border, the chief of which, Ngunthonga, died during the year. In consequence of these outrages the Government of India sanctioned a punitive expedition, but, owing to the lateness of the season when this sanction was communicated, operations were postponed until the next cold weather. In connection with these incidents the whole question of the delimitation of the southern boundary of the district has again been brought to the front.

In order to afford more efficient protection to our border villages, the Military Police outpost at South Vanlaiphai was moved to a site near Sherkor, which was selected by Captain Yates.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

[Consisting of twenty-five states :—Bhowal, Cherra, Shella, Khyrim, Myllem, Langrin, Maharam, Mawiang, Maosanram, Malaisohmat, Mariaw, Nobsohphoh, Nongkhlaw, Nongspung, Nongstoin, Rambrai, Jiring, Dwara, Nongtyrmen, Maodon, Maolong, Pomsangut, Lyngiong, Mau-phlang, Nonglwai, and Sohiong. Total population, 202,250.]

37. The Wahadadar's continued disregard of the orders of Government prohibiting the use of the railway borrow pits as a channel for the passage of boats led to the establishment of a police outpost in Shella on the 13th February 1907.

38. The terms of office of three of the Wahadadars having expired, an election for their successors was held by the Deputy Commissioner at Laitkynsew on the 13th March 1907, in which U Jogidhon, U Jokisor, and U Joydhon polled the largest number of votes, and their appointment was confirmed by Government.

39. The dispute between the Siems of Cherra and Nongkhlaw about the boundary of Sohrarim of which mention was made in last year's report, was locally inquired into by the Commissioner, with the result that Major Gurdon's decision of the position of "Mawmihtied" was upheld by Government. No sooner was the pillar rebuilt than it was again damaged. Though careful inquiries were made, the culprit could not be traced. The pillar has been reconstructed at the expense of the Siem of Nongkhlaw.

40. The internal affairs of the Bhowal State were anything but satisfactory, owing to dissensions among the members of the Siem's family.

41. There were many boundary disputes during the year between the various chiefs of the Khasi States and almost all of them were settled by local enquiry. The Deputy Commissioner reports that, with very few exceptions, there are no defined boundaries between the various States.

42. An enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner into the number of guns held in the semi-independent States of the Khasi Hills. The total number was found to be 538. Orders were passed by Government fixing the maxima for the different States and the Siems were reminded that ammunition could only legally be obtained from the licensed vendor in Shillong on a permit signed by the Deputy Commissioner.

43. It was again reported that gambling and the consumption of country spirit, which is readily and cheaply available, was doing much harm to the people and the large quantity of rice used in distillation acted to a very appreciable extent in reducing the good supplies in the villages.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

(See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.)

44. The prices of food-grains, high as they were in the preceding year, ruled still higher during the year under report. Indeed, at one period, common rice was selling at the rate of five seers to the rupee in the headquarters stations of all the districts in the Dacca Division and in Chittagong. Apart from the general causes which have inflated prices throughout India, the partial failure of the rice crop during the last two years and the reduction of rice cultivation consequent on the extended cultivation of jute were some of the special causes which contributed to this result in these two divisions. In the Rajshahi Division and the two Valleys of Assam, where the weather was not altogether unfavourable, it was chiefly the extensive exportation of rice and the retention of large stocks in hand by dealers and big cultivators that kept the prices up. The price of salt was, however, lower in consequence of the reduction in the duty and of the keen competition maintained between Liverpool and Karkach salt.

Prices of
food and
labour.

The high prices of food-grains were accompanied by a rise in the wages of labourers everywhere except in the Surma Valley Division. In this division wages remained stationary and there was even some reduction in the Sunamganj and Habiganj subdivisions of the district of Sylhet, where probably the demand for labour was limited by the scarcity that prevailed in those parts.

45. The year was one of considerable hardship to the middle classes who depend on fixed incomes and to the landless labourers. To these the high prices and poor crops brought more or less severe distress and in some parts relief operations had to be started and gratuitous relief distributed to those unable to labour. It was also found necessary to make advances freely to cultivators where the crops were poor or there had been loss of cattle from flood or disease. To the great majority of the cultivators, however, who, after all, form the bulk of the population of the province, the year, on the whole, was not unfavourable and, wherever jute is grown, the raiyats were exceedingly well off. As regards the Assam Valley Mr. Monahan writes:—

Material
condition
of the people.

"The pessimistic accounts often heard of the condition of the Assamese cultivators are, I think, somewhat exaggerated. Planters and native gentlemen alike inveigh against the indolence of the raiyats because they are not inclined to work as hired labourers, but this fact does not argue that their condition is declining. As one Assamese gentleman said to me, it is only the most inefficient who will work for hire. One is told in the same breath that they are poorer than they were, and that they spend more on luxuries. Many, no doubt, are impoverished by excessive use of opium, but they are probably a minority. I think that a majority of the raiyats must have benefited greatly by the high prices of agricultural produce; on the other hand, there can be no doubt but that in parts of Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, they have been hit hard by losses of cattle."

46. Public health was generally better than in the preceding year. Cholera and small-pox were no doubt present in every division, but there was no serious epidemic of either disease. Malarial fever, as usual, caused many deaths in most of the districts of the Rajshahi Division and was also prevalent in Dacca and Bakarganj; but *kala-azar*, it is satisfactory to note, was reported to have almost died out in the Assam Valley.

Public
health.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realisation of the Revenue.

(See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907.)

47. An account of the year's demand, collections, and balance of land revenue will be found under "Chapter V—Revenue and Finance."

48. The receipts under miscellaneous land revenue are mainly derived from fisheries, minerals, house-tax and survey and settlement charges recoverable. The current demand under this head was Rs. 11,97,978, of which Rs. 10,11,242, or 84·4 per cent., was collected. Of the total demand, inclusive of arrears, Rs. 10,11,798, or 83·2 per cent., was realized. A sum of Rs. 48,221 was also collected in advance. The collections do not compare favourably with those of the preceding year, but, considering the peculiar circumstances of the last two years, the results are not unsatisfactory. Remissions amounting to Rs. 2,791 were granted and Rs. 1,94,304 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The bulk of the arrears was on account of survey and settlement charges recoverable in Bakarganj, partition fees in Tippera and fishery revenue in the district of Sylhet. The system of collecting the house-tax from the hill tribes in the South Sylhet subdivision of Sylhet through their headman has proved a success, and is being extended to other subdivisions of the district.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

49. The number of revenue money orders increased during the year from 165,882 to 184,275, and the sum remitted from Rs. 8,42,411 to Rs. 8,63,929. The system is in force throughout Eastern Bengal and in the district of Sylhet, and is growing in popularity among the proprietors of small estates, to whom it offers an easy, safe and inexpensive means of paying their dues to Government. The remittances in each of the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chittagong exceeded a lakh of rupees.

Remittances of Revenue and rent by money order.

Payment of rent by money order is in force in the Eastern Bengal districts only. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 3,763 in the number of these money orders. The decrease was shared by all the three divisions in Eastern Bengal and is probably an indication that the relations between the tenants and their landlords were less strained than in previous years. Zamindars and their *amlas* in general dislike and discourage the use of the system—the former because it touches their authority over the tenants and the latter because it tends to reduce their perquisites in the form of "*tuhari*," which they realise from those who pay in their rent at the zamindari cutcherries, and the statistics furnished by the districts are to some extent a gauge of the degree to which the tenants assert their independence. In districts in which, like Chittagong, the number of orders used is large (12,000) and the percentage of those refused is small (3 per cent. only), the inference is that the tenants have asserted their rights with success; but, on the contrary, in districts in which there is little resort to the use of orders, and in which the landlords refuse to receive payment by that system, it is fairly certain that the zamindars retain the upper hand and the tenants either have but little to complain of or have not the courage or means to contend with their landlords. Under this category come most of the districts in the Rajshahi Division. A third class consists of districts in which the orders are used in considerable numbers but in which refusals are also numerous. In districts of this class, to which belong Mymensingh (1,332 and 42 per cent.), Faridpur (1,434 and 42 per cent.), and Rangpur (1,503 and 40 per cent.), the indication is that a struggle between landlords and tenants is in progress.

50. Compared with the previous year, there was, on the whole, a small increase (79) in defaults but a considerable decrease (319) in sales. The prices realised were, on the average, 4·7 times the Government revenue of the properties sold, against 6·8 times in the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that there was only one case, out of 37 appeals preferred to the Commissioners, in which it was found necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sale on the ground of hardship. The causes which led to estates being sold in the various districts have not been reported by the Commissioners. They were doubtless, as usual, disputes among co-sharers, insolvency of the proprietors, and wilful defaults with a view to get the encumbrances annulled. The Sale Law was administered with leniency and moderation, and the rule that the sale of one *kist* should be held before the next *kist* day was generally observed.

Operation of the Sale Law.

51. The total number of certificates filed during the year fell from 36,736 to 34,927, of which the Dacca Division was responsible for 12,728, the Chittagong Division for 16,090, and the Rajshahi Division for 6,109. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 10,699, 19,773, and 6,264, respectively. The percentage of certificates disposed of to the total number for disposal shows a decrease in the Dacca Division from 80·7 to 74·03, in the Chittagong Division from 77·3 to 67·4 and in the Rajshahi Division from 80·9 to 76·2. In all the divisions the greater portion of the demands was satisfied on the issue of notices and on attachment of properties. Recourse was had to actual sale in a very limited number of cases, and in one instance only, was imprisonment resorted to for the realisation of Government demands. There was no complaint against the working of section 21 of the Act, which permits a judgment-debtor to redeem his property after sale by payment of the amount of the certificate with costs and of a penalty equal to one-tenth of the auction price to the purchaser.

In view of the agricultural conditions of the past two years the administration of the Department was not in general unsatisfactory.

52. The experiment of dispensing with the issue of notices of demand under Section 68 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulations and of issuing warrants at once in selected areas was continued during the year. Special reports, on the results were, however, received only from some of the districts where the experiment was tried, and these were not conclusive. Further reports are awaited. There was a considerable decrease in the number of demand notices issued, and, though orders for the attachment of moveables showed an increase, there was a marked decline in the number of sales, both of moveable and immoveable property. The increase in the number of attachment orders, which was shared both by the Surma Valley and Assam Valley, is ascribed, in the former, to the fact that the tendency of the defaulters is to withhold payment until their property is attached, and, in the latter, to the numerous warrants issued for the realisation of tahsil arrears. The decrease in the number of sales was partly due to the leniency extended to the defaulters in the Jaintia parganas under orders of the Board, owing to the depressed conditions of the raiyats, and partly to the better ability of the raiyats to meet the demand in the Assam Valley.

In spite of the remarks made by the Board in the last year's report and concurred in by Government as to the extensive use of coercive processes by the mauzadars, the tendency of the mauzadars to avail themselves of coercive measures does not seem to have abated to any considerable extent. The Commissioner of the Surma Valley suggests that, if the mauzadars do not realise their position, greater discretion should be shown in issuing processes on their requisition. The Board are of opinion that a trial may be given to this course. Separate instructions will be issued on the subject.

Orders for ejectment were issued in the districts of Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur, where the defaulters were in possession of the estates, of which the settlement had been annulled, and were carried out by the Land Records Staff, except in a few cases in Kamrup in which police help was taken. Draft rules for regulating the procedure in cases of ejectment are under the consideration of Government.

53. In Eastern Bengal there was a decrease in the number of cases instituted. The number disposed of was exactly the same as the number instituted, leaving the number pending at the close the same as at the beginning of the year. Of the total number of cases for disposal, only 41 were disposed of. Partitions were allowed in 32 cases, and the rest were struck off for various reasons. The average cost per acre of partitions completed was Re. 0-12-8 in Dacca, Re. 1-2-9 in Mymensingh, Re. 0-15-4 in Faridpur and Re. 0-8-10 in Tippera, against Re. 0-11-4, Re. 0-5-6, Re. 0-6-0, and Re. 0-8-8, respectively, in the previous year.

As in the previous year, one application was struck off under Section 11 of Act V (B.C.) of 1897, which restricts the right of partition to estates and shares paying not less than a prescribed minimum land revenue.

54. Omitting summary partitions effected on the spot under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, the number of applications for partitions in Assam increased from 145 to 234, but the rate of disposal did not increase in proportion and there was a net increase of 47 cases in the pending file at the end of the year.

The Board carefully considered the question of limiting the partitions effected under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual referred to in the last year's report, but, in view of the artificial nature of the cadastral villages in Assam

ADMINIS-
TRATION
OF THE
LAND.

and in deference to the opinions of the local officers, have, with the approval of Government, decided to take no action for the present.

Land
acquisi-
tion.

55. The total area taken up for public purposes was 2,970 acres, of which 510 acres were acquired in the Eastern Bengal, and 2,460 acres in the Assam, districts. The amount of compensation paid was Rs. 3,87,630 and the abatement of annual land revenue allowed on the land acquired for, or at the cost of, Government was Rs. 2,761. A sum of Rs. 1,017 was paid to Government as the capitalized value of the Government revenue amounting to Rs. 48, abated on account of lands taken up for local bodies and companies. The average cost per acre of land acquired was Rs. 108, or, excluding the costly projects, Rs. 85 only.

Processes.

56. The total amount of process fees realised was Rs. 1,83,772, which left a surplus of Rs. 63,898, after deducting the cost of the establishment. The cost exceeded the receipts from fees in Dacca, Mymensingh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna in Eastern Bengal and in Goalpara only in Assam. The amount of process fees remitted in Assam was Rs. 10,566. The results of the new system of the service of processes through the Presidents of Village Unions introduced in the districts of Dacca and Tippera were not very encouraging, but the Board doubt whether the system has anywhere had a perfectly fair trial as yet.

Sale of
Govern-
ment lands.

57. There was no sale during the year of proprietary rights in Government Estates, but an area of 18 poles of Railway A-class land of the Mymensingh-Jagan-nathganj section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway was sold for Rs. 610.

Redemp-
tion of
land
revenue.

58. There was no redemption of land revenue under the orders of Government. The number of petty estates formed by partitions and redeemed under section 11 of the old Partition Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1876, was 4 (all in the Dacca district) against 76 in the previous year. There was no redemption of land revenue in Assam.

Land Regis-
tration.
(a) Under
Act VII
(B.C.) of
1876.

59. The total number of interests in land entered in the registers of Eastern Bengal under Section 38 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 increased by 6,455. As noticed in the previous year's report, the number is steadily increasing. Applications for mutations filed during the year rose from 22,906 to 26,177. In 22,696 cases the applications were granted, which represented a percentage of 3.40 on the actual number of interests at the beginning of the year, against 3.33 in the previous year. The system of making enquiries through *panchayets*, which was found useful in Mymensingh was extended to the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Rajshahi and has worked satisfactorily. The registers prescribed under the Act are reported to be generally in good condition. Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 has been amended by Act I of 1907 of this province. The question of the revision of the forms of Land Registration registers under the amended Act is under the consideration of the Board.

(b) Under
Assam
Land and
Revenue
Regulation.

60. In the Surma Valley the number of cases which were disposed of locally by summary procedure rose from 21,413 to 35,888, an increase which shows that considerable attention has been given to the maintenance of the records in that division. In the Assam Valley, on the contrary, the number of cases disposed of in this manner fell short of the figures of the previous year. It is reported that the conditions of the year were abnormal on account of the resettlements recently completed in Kamrup and Sibsagar and those in progress in Darrang and Nowgong, but this does not, in the opinion of the Board, account fully for the decrease.

The number of cases instituted under the regular procedure fell from 10,394 to 3,657 in the Surma Valley, which shows that the summary procedure is working there satisfactorily. In the Assam Valley, however, the number rose from 3,658 to 5,610, which possibly indicates that the public place no great reliance on the summary process in the mofussil. Nearly half the number of cases brought into court in the Assam Valley remained pending, and the result of the year's working in this respect compares very unfavourably with that of the previous year.

Advances
under the
Land Im-
provement
Loans Act.

61. The only loan granted under this Act was one for Rs. 1,200 in the district of Chittagong. Of the total sum, principal and interest, outstanding at the beginning of the year, a sum of Rs. 12,810 was repayable during the year, of which Rs. 6,305 was actually realized and Rs. 2,029 was remitted. The balance of the principal outstanding decreased from Rs. 20,243 to Rs. 13,498. The Act seems to be unknown in Assam, and even in Eastern Bengal districts advantage is not taken of its provisions to any great extent.

Loans un-
der the
Agricult-
urists'
Loans Act.

62. The short outturn of crops during 1905-1906, coupled with the high prices that prevailed during the year, told heavily upon the resources of the poor cultivators. The demand for loans was consequently great and a sum of Rs. 8,25,391 was advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. Of the total amount, principal and interest,

that fell due during the year, *viz.*, Rs. 3,93,447, Rs. 2,07,100 was realized, Rs. 27 was remitted as irrecoverable, and the realization of Rs. 22,677 was suspended, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,67,359.

63. The year was one of considerable progress for these Societies. The urban Societies, which alone showed last year signs of real vitality, continued to make substantial progress. Their number rose from 7 with an average membership of 75 to 12 with an average membership of 85, and their average capital from Rs. 2,154 to Rs. 3,813, while the amount of loans issued by them increased from Rs. 21,485 to Rs. 67,738. The Shillong Co-operative Credit Society still maintains its position as the leading institution of this class, though the societies in the principal towns of this province are fast becoming its rivals. It is, however, among rural societies that progress was most marked. Their number increased from 14 to 48, and their average capital from Rs. 265 to Rs. 605, while the loans issued by them amounted to as much as Rs. 30,717, against Rs. 4,976 in the preceding year. These figures are distinctly encouraging, but the societies are at present only in the initial stage, and it cannot yet in all cases be predicted how far they will be able to withstand the determined opposition, which is being offered to them by that class of money-lenders who have for many years kept the cultivating classes in their clutches by a system of loans at rates of interest, which for ever preclude any chance of repayment.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[See Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

MAJOR OPERATIONS.

64. In Eastern Bengal traverse survey operations are under the control of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys, Bengal, while, in Assam, they are conducted by the Assam Survey Detachment, which is under the Director of Land Records. This anomalous arrangement is very unsatisfactory. The Board of Revenue are of opinion that the work in this province is of sufficient importance to justify the appointment of a separate Superintendent from the superior ranks of the Imperial Service and a proposal on the subject will shortly be submitted. A recent change in procedure has divested the Survey Department in Eastern Bengal of all concern with cadastral survey and record writing which have been transferred to the settlement staff and the result is being carefully watched.

65. The major operations in Eastern Bengal were confined to the districts of Bakarganj, Dacca and Faridpur. The survey in the former district is nearing its close, and highly satisfactory progress was made in spite of exceptional difficulties. The cadastral survey and the completion of the record-of-rights in the Sunderbans were carried out at considerable personal risk by the settlement staff during the year, and the work, which remained unfinished in the remaining portions of the Bakarganj district, was practically completed in spite of the determined opposition offered in some cases by a certain section of the community.

The recovery of settlement costs during the year was somewhat below the expectations entertained. The year 1905-1906 was one of agricultural depression and, after personal enquiries had been made by the First Member of the Board of Revenue, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Bampfylde Fuller, with the approval of the Government of India, directed that the realization of costs in the district should be deferred till January in order to tide the cultivators over a time of stress.

The traverse survey of the Dacca district was commenced this year. Considerable progress was made in spite of the difficulties arising from the non-attendance of parties in many instances and the difficulty of establishing permanent marks in a country subject to heavy inundation. The cost of this traverse survey worked out to Rs. 51-4 per square mile this year as against Rs. 45 originally estimated by the Government of Bengal. This was due to the complicated system of tenures that prevails in Dacca as well as in Bakarganj.

Adverse agricultural conditions and other causes prevented the inception of the cadastral operations in the district of Faridpur, but the necessary preparations were made to undertake them in the year now current and they are actually in progress at the present time.

Good progress was also made in laying down the boundary between the new and old provinces, care being taken to make this work fit in with the cadastral survey already completed in Bakarganj.

ADMINIS-
TRATION
OF THE
LAND.

In addition to these main operations, minor operations under the control of the Director of Land Records were in progress in Tippera, Noakhali, Rangpur and Pabna. In all these districts the work advanced through several stages.

(b) Assam.

66. In Assam the Land Revenue Settlement of the Sibsagar and Kamrup districts came to a close. The assessment of each district was placed on a scientific basis, and it is believed that a great deal was done to rectify the irregularities and inaccuracies of the previous settlement of 1893 and 1894. Reductions were made in the revenue of the district of Kamrup owing to the serious calamities which have occurred since the previous settlement. A feature of these two settlements was the scientific classification of soils introduced by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, and the uniformity of treatment for large areas thus ensured is an earnest of the success of this settlement as a whole.

The principles adopted in the re-settlement of these two districts are also being observed in the districts of Darrang and Nowgong. The only departure made from the past procedure is the issuing of *Kacha pattas* before attestation.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

67. Progress was made in the smaller settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act under the supervision of Commissioners of Divisions. An area of 95,125 acres in Government, and of 104,596 acres in private estates were under settlement, and the records of 164 villages in the former, and of 76 in the latter, estates were finally published during the year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 25,291 in Government, and to Rs. 22,424 in private, estates.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

[See Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

EASTERN BENGAL.

General.

68. In Eastern Bengal the record is maintained in a more or less desultory manner in Government and Wards' Estates. A special officer was, however, deputed during the year to make enquiries in Chittagong with a view to elaborate a scheme for maintaining the record in that district, which will probably be taken as a model for similar schemes throughout the transferred districts.

Mainten-
ance of re-
cords in
Govern-
ment and
Wards' Es-
tates in
Eastern
Bengal.

69. According to the standard laid down by the Board, the number of mutations recorded annually should not fall below 8 per cent. of the total number of tenancies. So far as Government estates are concerned, in one case only was this standard attained. It was approached in three others, and, in the remainder, the number of mutations recorded was 5 per cent., or less.

Utilization
of Land
Records in
Eastern
Bengal.

70. Most of the Collectors, in whose districts records-of-rights have been prepared, state in general terms that the records are consulted when necessary and afford great help in the decision of disputes. The Director of Land Records has also ascertained by personal inspection of the Registration Office at Chittagong that the instructions issued by the Registration Department for the entry of a reference to the records-of-rights in all deeds presented for registration are by no means a dead letter. Probably the most pregnant fact in the situation regarding the utilization of the record in Eastern Bengal is that, in the Bakarganj district, every tenant is being presented not only with an extract from the record, but with a "vandyked" copy of the village map, which he can file, as occasion requires, before any criminal, civil or revenue court.

ASSAM.

General.

71. In Assam a regular staff is kept for maintaining the record. This staff is under the supervision of the Director of Land Records.

Mandals
and patwa-
ries.

72. Out of 1,130 mandals sanctioned for Assam, 1,123 were actually entertained. The number of uncertificated mandals has been reduced to 33. The average area of a mandal's circle in the Assam Valley is 30,325 bighas, that of a patwari's circle in the Jaintia parganas and Cachar 20,380 and 21,750 bighas, respectively. In accordance with Government orders on the subject, attempts were made to eliminate non-resident mandals, with the result that their number has decreased to 498, as against 685 in the previous year.

73. The average size of a supervising kanungo's circle was :

	Square miles.	ADMINIS- TRATION OF THE LAND.
In the Cachar district	133	Tours and inspections of super- vising ka- nungos.
" " Sylhet "	117	
" " As-sam Valley	340	

74. Two kanungos failed to reach the prescribed minimum of days to be spent on tour, but the work of the staff as a whole came up to the mark.

With a few exceptions Sub-Deputy Collectors are reported to have inspected sufficiently the work of the mandals and patwaris.

75. The new Land Records Manual was introduced during the year in all plains districts. One of the most noticeable features of the new Manual is the system of recording mutations in the field without any formal application from the parties concerned. The system is reported to be working well.

SECTION 4.—Settlements for Special Cultivation (Waste Lands.)

(See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907.)

76. The total area settled for special cultivation increased during the year from 1,397,012 to 1,399,262 acres and the revenue demand from Rs. 9,11,406 to Rs. 9,22,914. The bulk of the area, *viz.*, 11,63,334 acres with a revenue of Rs. 7,21,596, lies in Assam and the remainder in the district of Jalpaiguri. In the latter tract there was a decrease of 437 acres in area and of Rs. 1,873 in revenue, of which no explanation has been given, while, in the former, both the area and the revenue showed an increase, which was shared by the districts of Sylhet, Cachar, Darrang, and Lakhimpur. In the remaining districts of Assam the area either remained stationary or decreased, but there was an increase in revenue owing to progressive enhancements.

77. There were no applications for settlement in Eastern Bengal and in Cachar and Kamrup. In Sylhet 7 new applications were filed and, out of a total of 12 applications for disposal, settlement was effected in 5 cases. In the Assam Valley, the number of applications rose from 29 to 48, and 22 were pending from the preceding year. Of these, 28 were disposed of. The Commissioner reports that the disposal of applications was not satisfactory in Darrang, where 5 cases were pending over one year.

78. No grants were resigned or resumed in the Surma Valley or in Eastern Bengal. In the Assam Valley, one grant with an area of 685.51 acres in Nowgong and two grants with an aggregate area of 109 acres in Sibsagar were relinquished.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

(See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.)

79. The total number of estates under direct management rose from 1,538 to 1,559. The most important addition to the list of these estates was that of the estate known as Char Bangshi in Noakhali which has a rental of Rs. 26,000 and covers an area of 13 square miles. The raiyatwari settlement of Char Mir Muhammad Ali, Part I, in Noakhali, has so far proved satisfactory, and it is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of March next.

80. There was no material change either in the agency or in the mode of management of the Government Estates under direct management. In Bakarganj a new circle was formed in the Pirojpur subdivision with a Khas Tahsildar on Rs. 30 and two peons on Rs. 7 each a month for collection. The Government Estate, Ambari Palakata in Jalpaiguri, hitherto in charge of the Subdivisional Officer of Siliguri (Darjeeling), is now managed from Jalpaiguri. The Deputy Collector in charge of the Tauzi Department has been placed in charge of the tahsil, and the registers are maintained by the tauzinavis, who receives an allowance of Rs. 10 a month for his labours.

For the colonization of the Bakarganj Sundarbans a special officer (a Deputy Collector) has been appointed with a staff of one Inspector, one Surveyor and necessary menials. Rules have also been framed for his guidance according to which allotments will be made to raiyats who desire to reside in, and cultivate, the lands. Progress in this work is necessarily slow and no opinion can be expressed yet as to the success of the scheme.

ADMINIS-
TRATION
OF THE
LAND.

An amount of Rs. 325 was misappropriated by two muharrirs of the tahsildar of Char Hime in Tippera, and the persons concerned were duly punished, the former by dismissal, and the latter by degradation for lax supervision.

Demand
and collec-
tions.

81. The current demand of the Government Estates was Rs. 21,72,613. Including arrears, the total demand increased from Rs. 21,49,187 to Rs. 25,32,760, of which Rs. 21,41,406, or 84.54 per cent., was collected, against 83.27 per cent. in the previous year, a result which, on the whole, is satisfactory. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 7.7.

Allotment
and expen-
diture.

82. The amount placed at the disposal of the Board for the management of, and improvement in, Government Estates was Rs. 2,51,000. An additional grant of Rs. 20,845 for the reclamation of the Island Char Mir Muhammad Ali, Part I, in Noakhali, was subsequently sanctioned. Of the total sum of Rs. 2,71,845 available for expenditure, Rs. 1,68,745 were spent on management and Rs. 70,734 on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements. The balance lapsed to Government.

Condition
of the
raiyats.

83. The general condition of the tenants of Government Khas Mahal Estates in Eastern Bengal is reported to have been satisfactory.

SECTION 6.—Wards' and Attached Estates.

(See Report of the Board of Revenue on the Wards' and Attached Estates in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907).

Number of
estates un-
der man-
agement.

84. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards during the year was 49, including 9 new estates taken in charge, and excluding the estate of Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya in Sylhet. Five estates were released leaving 44 estates under the Court's management at the close of the year.

Payment of
revenue
and cesses.

85. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government was Rs. 7,66,209, of which Rs. 7,33,046, or 95.7 per cent., was paid against 98.9 per cent. in the preceding year. The largest balance (Rs. 19,662) was due from the Bhukailash estate No. III, and is being gradually liquidated.

Payment of
rent and
cesses.

86. The outstandings due to superior landlords were much heavier in proportion, as, out of a total arrear and current demand of Rs. 6,39,147, only Rs. 3,92,245, or 61.3 per cent., was paid. This result was due to a variety of causes, such as want of funds, aggravated, in some instances, by poor crops and short collections, non-adjustment of accounts, diluvion, uncertainty as to whom payment should be made, and the like.

Collection
of rent and
cesses.

87. The total collections of rent and cesses due to the estates under management represented 102.9 per cent. of the current demand, against 98.9 per cent. in the preceding year. There was a general improvement in the percentage of collections in the Dacca and Chittagong divisions, while the reverse was the case in the Rajshahi division. The total uncollected balance rose from Rs. 25,60,431 to Rs. 33,85,858, a portion of which is reported to be irrecoverable. There was an increase in the number of certificates filed from 3,458 to 6,144, of which 3,000 were filed in one estate alone. The number of civil suits filed during the year, however, showed a decrease which was shared by most of the estates.

Reduction
of debts.

88. Altogether Rs. 8,09,100 were paid in liquidation of debts against Rs. 5,49,400 in the preceding year.

Cost of ma-
nagement
and expen-
diture on
improve-
ments.

89. The total cost of management was Rs. 2,95,757, or 12.6 per cent. of the current demand. The standard prescribed, *viz.*, 10 per cent., of the current demand, was exceeded in all the divisions. It was the highest in the Surma Valley (14.5) and lowest in the Chittagong division (11.1 per cent.).

A sum of Rs. 96,438 was spent on works of improvement, schools and dispensaries against Rs. 53,199 in the preceding year.

Education
of wards.

90. The arrangements made for the education of the wards in the case of estates administered under Act IX (B.C.) of 1879, which are detailed in paragraph 22 of the Board's report, show that careful attention continues to be paid to this important subject.

Laws.

91. Certain sections of the Bengal Court of Wards Act, IX (B.C.) of 1879, were amended during the year by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Act III of 1907 so as to give the Court authoritative means for ascertaining the debts due from the estates of which charge is taken and to empower the Court to retain the management of an estate, with a view to the discharge of its debts and liabilities after the disqualification of the proprietors of the estate terminates.

Private es-
tates mana-
ged by
revenue
authorities
but not un-
der the
Court of
Wards.

92. There was only one estate of which the management was taken by the revenue authorities under the orders of the Civil Court for the liquidation of its debts. The debts, which amounted to Rs. 13,700, were paid off and the estate was released in March 1907.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907, and the Divisional Annual Miscellaneous Report for 1906-1907.]

93. The relations between landlords and tenants are not satisfactory in any district of the Dacca division. The report from Dacca is somewhat more favourable than those received from the other districts, but even in the Dacca district the prevailing evils exist, and, in two cases, resulted in serious riots. The general position described in last year's report remained unaltered. Absentee landlords who regard their estates as mere money-producing machines, smaller resident landlords who oppress their tenants and take illegal exactions from them, and corrupt and oppressive *amla*—these are the general mischievous features of the situation. In Bakarganj the settlement proceedings have shown how great the evils are, and they have given the cultivators a complete record of their rights, though not, it is to be feared in many cases, the power to enforce them against a strong and unscrupulous landlord. The special feature of the year was the oppression exerted in many estates to compel the Muhammadan peasantry to join in the boycott of British goods. Complaints of this character have been innumerable, and, where the zamindar's agents are powerful and deeply steeped in the agitation movement, their conduct has contributed largely to bring about a dangerous degree of tension.

Relations
between
landlords
and
tenants.
Dacca Divi-
sion.

94. In the Chittagong Division the relations between landlords and tenants continued, on the whole, to be peaceful. As regards the Tippera district, however, the Commissioner reports as follows:—

Chittagong
Division.

"I should mention here that during my local investigations into the disturbances in the Tippera district in March and April last, I noticed a disposition on the part of the Muhammadan tenantry in the affected area to attack the persons and property of their Hindu landlords. Almost all the pleaders of the Courts are Hindus. The ordinary Muhammadan stands a poor chance in the courts. In any general disorder he would combine to get back some of his own again (as he would consider it) from the Hindu landlords and money-lenders. He did combine, and effectively in many places, against the boycotting of English salt, etc., by Hindu shopkeepers and bazar lesses. Most of the applications for protection which I received in the Tippera district were from Hindu landlords and traders against the Muhammadan peasantry, with whom they had dealings either as tenants or customers."

95. In the Rajshahi division, the relations between landlords and tenants were fairly satisfactory, although there were exceptions. In the Thakurgaon subdivision of the Dinajpur district, the Maldwar zamindars endeavoured to enhance rents in some 13 or 14 villages to which the raiyats objected, and the collection of the additional rent was stopped. In Rangpur, there was some ill-feeling between the tenants of pargana Gyabari and Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, due to the latter's attempt to enhance the rent. The tenants combined in self-defence and withheld payment of rent. In Pabna tension was created by wandering Maulvis and Mollas from Dacca and elsewhere, as well as by the boycott movement, and led to the institution of some cases under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Rajshahi
Division.

96. In Assam, the settlement-holders are, as a rule, peasant proprietors, cultivating their own lands and paying revenue direct to Government. Subletting is not unknown, but, except in Goalpara and the Surma Valley, is not very common. They have, therefore, no landlords to deal with except the Government.

Assam.

97. The Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, governs the relations of landlord and tenant in the Regulation districts of Eastern Bengal, and in part of the Scheduled district of Jalpaiguri. The provisions of the Act are, it is reported, gradually becoming better known, especially in the districts in which operations under Chapter X are in progress, but it is doubtful whether even now the large majority either of tenants or landlords have any but the vaguest idea of its bearing on their relations. As in previous years, landlords continued to show their disinclination to accept the prescribed fees payable on transfers of permanent tenures and permanent holdings, nor did they make much use of the provisions of the law, requiring them to file a notice of re-entry on abandoned lands in the Collector's office. Amendments of the Act, such as those passed in Bengal, are under the consideration of Government.

Working of
the Bengal
Tenancy
Act.

CHAPTER III—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislating Authority.

[See General Administration Report for 1905-1906—Part II, pages 119-120.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

98. Two Acts were passed by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council during the year 1906-1907:—

Acts
passed
during
1906-1907.

- (i) Eastern Bengal and Assam Act No. I of 1907 [*The Eastern Bengal Assam Land Registration (Amendment) Act*].—This Act was passed by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council on the 14th February 1907, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 9th March following. It provides for the registration of the names of proprietors of estates, which it is necessary to ensure both in the interest of proprietors and of many branches of the administration; it empowers the Board of Revenue to introduce such changes in the form of the registers to be kept under the Act as may from time to time prove desirable, and, in addition to several minor amendments which the working of the Act has shewn to be necessary, prescribes a uniform fee of two rupees for applications for the opening of a separate account whether made under the Land Registration Act, or under the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859.

Eastern
Bengal and
Assam Act
No. I of
1907.

- (ii) Eastern Bengal and Assam Act No. II of 1907 [*The Eastern Bengal and Assam Disorderly Houses Act, 1907*].—This Act was passed by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council on the 14th February 1907, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 11th March following. It empowers the authorities to close (1) any brothel or disorderly house in the vicinity of an educational institution, boarding house, hostel or students' mess, (2) any such house, which causes annoyance to respectable residents in the vicinity, and (3) any brothel in the immediate neighbourhood of a cantonment. The law may be put in force against the owner, tenant, manager or occupier of the house by any magistrate of the first class, but he can only exercise his jurisdiction either with the sanction or under the order of the District Magistrate; or on receiving a report from the Municipal Commissioners concerned, or on the complaint of not less than three respectable residents in the vicinity of the house complained of.

Eastern
Bengal and
Assam Act
No. II of
1907.

99. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards Amendment Bill was introduced in Council on the 18th December 1906, and was passed on the 8th April 1907. It received the assent of the Governor-General on the 25th May following, and is now Eastern Bengal and Assam Act No. III of 1907. The two most important provisions of the Act are (1) that all private creditors are required, on due notice being given to them, to give full information to the Court as to their claims against the proprietor or his property under the penalty of forfeiting their claims if they wilfully withhold the information; and (2) that the Court is placed, with respect to all estates of which it may assume the management, in the same position as it holds with respect to the estates of improvident proprietors. The remaining provisions are intended to ensure that notices to creditors are published in such a manner as to come to the knowledge of all who may be affected by them; and to clear up doubts which existed as to the person chargeable for expenses incurred in inquiries regarding the disqualification of proprietors, as to the extent of the responsibility of employees of the Court, and as to the power of wards to create encumbrances on their estates under the management of the Court without its consent.

Bills.
The
Eastern
Bengal and
Assam
Court of
Wards
Amend-
ment Bill.

100. The following Acts were extended to various parts of the province:—

1. Act XIV of 1874 (The Indian Registration Act) to the Jowai Subdivision.
2. Act XII of 1880 (Kazis' Act) to the Assam Valley districts.
3. Act XI of 1890 (Act for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to certain villages in the Rajshahi Division.
4. Act I (B.C.) of 1876 (Registration of Muhammadan Marriages) to the Assam Valley districts.
5. Act II (B.C.) of 1876 (Public Gambling) to Saidpur in the district of Rungpur.

Extension
of laws
under the
Scheduled
Districts
Act.

Section 3.—Police.

[See Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905 ; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

101. With effect from the 1st April 1903, the Secretary of State sanctioned the reorganisation of the superior Police cadre of the province on the lines recommended by the Police Commission. The cadre comprises one Inspector General, three Deputy Inspectors General (two as Range officers and the third for the charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, Railway and River Police), 28 Superintendents (22 for district charges, one for Personal Assistant to Inspector General of Police, one for Personal Assistant to Deputy Inspector General in charge of Crime and Railways, one for the Railway Police, two for the River Police, and one for the Provincial Training School), 29 Assistant Superintendents, including three provided for deputation, and 12 Deputy Superintendents. Adminis-
tration.

MILITARY POLICE.

102. The actual strength of the several Military Police Battalions, on the 31st December 1906, was short of the sanctioned strength by one Subadar and 69 sepoy. Strength.

103. All the battalions continued to maintain a high standard of drill and discipline and showed a great improvement in shooting. There was a decrease in the number of resignations, but a slight increase in the number of dismissals. Drill and
Discipline.

104. The total number of men enlisted increased from 79 to 255. This increase was due largely to the fact that 100 extra men were recruited for the Lakhimpur Battalion under orders of Government. The percentage of Gurkhas enlisted was 88·2. Enlistment.

105. There were altogether 33 deaths against 40 in 1905, the main causes of death being cholera, fever, diarrhoea and meningitis. Five men committed suicide. Mortality.

106. The miscellaneous duties which have fallen to the lot of the Assam Military Police have increased considerably since the constitution of the new province. These duties, which, to men generally unaccustomed to the plains and to town life, are novel and onerous, were performed during the year both by officers and men without any complaint and with good temper. But it cannot be denied that the employment on such duties of detachments of a force primarily intended for frontier purposes is undesirable, and, from every point of view, it is hoped that the proposals submitted to the Government of India for the provision of an adequate force at Dacca may receive early sanction. Miscel-
laneous
Extra
Duties.

CIVIL POLICE.

107. The strength and distribution of the Civil Police force, including the Railway, River Police, Criminal Investigation Department, and Finger Print Bureau, as it stood on the 31st December 1906, is shown in the table below :— Strength
and distri-
bution of
force.

	Sanctioned strength.		Actual strength.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
1	2	3	4	5
Deputy Inspectors General	2	3	2	3
Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Police.	43	69	34	44
Total	45	72	36	47
Inspectors	85	87	83	86
Sergeants	...	2	...	2
Sub-Inspectors	831	814	692	744
Head Constables	676	801	646	683
Constables	7,771	7,956	7,548	7,357
Total	9,363	9,660	8,969	8,572
Town Chaukidars	...	...	...	407
Grand Total	9,408	9,732	9,005	9,326

PROTEC-
TION.Strength of
Reserves.

108. Large additions have lately been made to the reserves in Eastern Bengal, and the forces there are now adequate; but it remains to provide armed reserves for Sylhet and the Assam Valley.

Improve-
ments In-
troduced
during the
year.

109. The following reforms were introduced during the year 1906, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Police Commission as approved by the Government of India :—

- (1) The improved scale of pay of the superior Police cadre of the province was introduced.
- (2) Seven Deputy Superintendents were appointed.
- (3) Fifty-five appointments of Sub-Inspectors were added to the cadre, of which 25 were actually entertained during the year and 30 after its close.
- (4) The Provincial Criminal Investigation Department was formed.
- (5) The pay of Inspectors and head constables in Assam was raised to the minimum fixed by Government.
- (6) A daily allowance of Re. 1 was granted to the Circle Inspectors in the Eastern Bengal districts, the concession having been already granted in Assam.
- (7) A daily allowance of annas 2 was granted to constables when deputed beyond the Inspector's circle.
- (8) One hundred head constables were recruited to replace the writer constables.
- (9) One hundred and sixty-two constables were added to the strength of the force towards the increase of cadre.

Besides these, various administrative matters were dealt with.

Discipline.

110. No definite complaints were made during the year of a lack of discipline, except in Pabna, Goalpara, Dacca, Noakhali, Darrang, and Sylhet, but there is room for improvement in this respect throughout the province, particularly in the Assam districts, where the difficulty of enforcing discipline lies in the fact that the Assamese resign on the smallest pretext. The decrease in the number of resignations indicates, however, that the improved pay and prospects of the force have already had some effect in these latter districts.

The percentage of officers and men departmentally punished to the actual number entertained was 16·6 and 21·9, respectively. Fewer officers and more men were punished than in the preceding year, but the number of dismissals was greater in both cases. The number of judicial punishments under the Indian Penal Code and under Act V of 1861 was 121.

Recruit-
ment.

111. Altogether 714 officers and men were enlisted during the year. Of these, 257, or 36 per cent., were Muhammadans. This shows a considerable improvement, but the proportion is still very low and requires to be increased.

Additional
Police.

112. Additional police were employed under section 15, Act V of 1861, in the districts of Mymensingh, Bakarganj and Rangpur to prevent breaches of the peace and to guard a railway line. They were also employed on various occasions at the cost of, and at the request of, private individuals.

Special
constables.

113. Twelve special constables, appointed in 1905 in Sylhet, were discharged in January or February 1906. Five special head constables and 13 constables were appointed for one week in Malda to preserve the peace.

Railway
Police.

A Superintendent of Police was sanctioned for the Railway Police of this province, and the Police of the Assam-Bengal Railway and the Dacca Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Narayanganj to Jagannathganj were placed under him. The proposal to transfer to this province the Police control of other portions of the Eastern Bengal State Railway line situated in this province has not yet been carried out. A small force working under the district authorities, was, as in previous years, maintained for the Jorhat State Railway.

The working of the Railway Police during the year was unsatisfactory. The number of railway cases increased by 127 and the police failed to grapple with this increase, owing probably to the inadequacy of the force. Since the close of the year, the railway police on the Assam-Bengal Railway system have been strengthened, and proposals in regard to the Dacca-Mymensingh Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway are under the consideration of Government.

The total number of accidents was 125, of which 57 were attended with loss of life.

114. At the beginning of the current year a Police Training School with a staff of one Principal and four Instructors was established at Dacca, and four Probationary Assistant Superintendents, two Probationary Deputy Superintendents and about fifty Sub-Inspectors are now under instruction there. The Training School for constables will, it is hoped, be started before the close of the current year.

115. The force for watch and ward duty in the several municipalities of the province consists of 64 head constables, 660 constables and 412 town chaukidars. In the Assam districts there are no town chaukidars and the work is done by constables. No town police are employed in any of the hill districts except in Shillong. The work of town chaukidars was not satisfactory. Government have sanctioned their replacement by constables during the current year. The town police in the Assam districts worked fairly well. Union and Town Police.

116. Chaukidars are employed in all the districts of Eastern Bengal and in Sylhet, Cachar and Goalpara. Their total number increased from 57,204 in 1905 to 57,571 in 1906. The total cost, however, decreased from Rs. 35,29,564 to Rs. 33,85,219. Rural Police.

Generally speaking, the chaukidars were reported to have done little good work. On the other hand, in Mymensingh, Dinajpur and Bakarganj instances were quoted which showed what admirable work they could do if properly handled.

The reports from Dacca, Tippera, and Rajshahi on the working of the new system of President Panchayats are not encouraging. As mentioned last year, the system has led to a large increase in the amount of crime reported—generally of a petty nature, but from all three districts the cry comes that the reports are seriously delayed, owing to the fact that the reports are generally sent by post. Complaints are also made that the chaukidars under the new system are not of much use to the police either in giving information as to the movements of bad characters or in assisting in investigations. This will be to some extent remedied by the orders recently passed, reverting to the old system of weekly or fortnightly attendance at the police station instead of monthly, as under the new system.

The returns of punishments and rewards showed remarkable variations, indicating great variety of treatment. It is noticeable that in Dacca only 2·12 per cent. of the chaukidars were punished notwithstanding the complaints of their bad work, and in all areas, in which the new system is being tried, the number of rewards given is very small.

117. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 34,71,175 against Rs. 31,46,983 in 1905. Cost of the Department

118. The number of cognizable offences reported direct to the police increased during the year from 49,396 to 58,691 and the number reported direct to the Magistrates from 23,329 to 24,969. The increase which occurred in all classes of crime, but chiefly in burglaries and thefts, was due primarily to the high prices of food-grains. Statistics of Crime.

The percentage of cases of house-breaking and of theft in which the police abstained from enquiry under the authority of section 157, Criminal Procedure Code, rose to 34·9 and 26·1, respectively. The fact that only 9 per cent. of the cases of house-breaking investigated were brought to trial appears to show that there is room for a still more liberal use of the section in dealing with this class of crime.

Partly as the result of this freer abstention from investigation, the percentage of investigated cases sent up for trial rose from 40·8 to 43·5, and, though the proportion of cases in which convictions were obtained declined, the ratio of persons convicted to persons sent for trial, *viz.*, 72·2 per cent., was greater than in the previous year.

119. Remands showed a most deplorable tendency to increase. The percentage of the cases decided at the first two hearings fell from 43·7 to 42·8 and the percentage of cases remanded over six times reached the high figure of 7·6, against 5·6 in the previous year. In no district, except in Jalpaiguri and Bogra, did the percentage of cases decided at the first two hearings reach 60 and only in Rajshahi, Goalpara, Nowgong, and Sibsagar was it more than 50. The worst districts in this respect were Bakarganj (24·5), Sylhet (23·08), Cachar (29·7), Chittagong (31·9), Faridpur (35·8), and Pabna (30·7). Remands.

120. While the number of cases declared by Magistrates to be maliciously false increased from 1,619 to 1,812, the number in which prosecutions were undertaken increased from 209 to 219, but in only 86 of these were convictions obtained. Generally speaking, action was taken in a much larger number of cases and with more success in the Assam Valley and Surma Valley Divisions than in Eastern Bengal districts. Sixty-six of the persons who brought false or frivolous charges were ordered to pay compensation to their victims under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code. False cases.

PROTEC-
TION.Preventive
Measures.

121. The number of persons required to give security to keep the peace was larger than in 1905, but, considering that no less than 3,513 persons were convicted of rioting, Section 106, of the Code of Criminal Procedure might, with advantage, have been more freely used. The number of persons required to furnish security for good behaviour was 1,356 against 1,246 in the preceding year. The salutary results of these proceedings in Mymensingh show how effective the procedure may be if properly worked, and, where it is found that no decrease in crime results, it is because action has been directed against the wrong persons. It is noticeable that in Chittagong and Sylhet not only was the proportion of successful prosecutions very small, but a large number of persons bound down succeeded in giving security; whereas in Mymensingh, where the prosecutions were unquestionably directed against professional criminals, the proportion who found sureties for their good behaviour was very small.

Criminal
Investiga-
tion De-
partment.

122. The Criminal Investigation Department and Finger Print Bureau were sanctioned by Government on the 18th January 1906, and steps were at once taken to form a clerical staff and to take over the files and finger print slips referring to the fourteen districts transferred from Bengal. This was completed by the 9th April, and the Criminal Investigation Department commenced work from that date.

The Department proved its usefulness by the successful prosecution of two notorious gangs of dacoits led by Makbul Khan and Bhima Koch, and of the Panchbibi gang of jute thieves; but the extent of the operations had to be restricted for want of officers, and it has recently been decided to increase the force to provide a sufficient number of officers for the investigation of cases of this nature as well as for the miscellaneous enquiries that have to be entrusted to them. It is disappointing that even in the districts of Bogra and Mymensingh, in which the action against gangs of thieves and dacoits has been most vigorous and successful, there was an increase of serious crime against property. This, however, might have been due to causes of a temporary nature and the coming year, it is hoped, will show better results.

Unnatural
Deaths.

123. The number of unnatural deaths during the year was 14,984, against 13,714 in 1905. Four hundred and eighty-nine men, 831 women, and 42 children committed suicide; 1,047 men, 754 women, and 6,634 children were drowned; 883 men, 1,058 women, and 808 children died of snake-bite; 284 men, 45 women, and 179 children were killed by wild animals; and 40 men, 30 women, and 28 children died from injuries sustained in building accidents, etc. The number of deaths from other causes was 693 men, 297 women, and 842 children. The increase in the number of deaths by drowning and snake-bite may be attributed to the high floods.

Three cases in Sibsaigar, four cases in Dacca, two cases in each of the districts of Rajshahi and Mymensingh, three cases in Chittagong, and one case in each of the districts of Bogra, Rangpur, Tippera, and Garo Hills, which were reported to the police as unnatural deaths, proved on enquiry to be murders, while three cases in Dinajpur, seven cases in Mymensingh and one case in Rajshahi similarly proved to be cases of culpable homicide.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[See Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

Area and
population.

124. The only alteration in the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Courts was the transfer of the district of Jalpaiguri from the jurisdiction of the Sessions Judge of Rangpur to that of the Sessions Judge of Dinajpur with effect from the 1st June 1906.

Judicial
Staff.

125. Thirteen Sessions Judges and 2 Additional Sessions Judges were employed throughout the year. A second Additional Sessions Judge was employed at Mymensingh for 2 months and 17 days. An Additional Sessions Judge worked at Faridpur for 5 days during the year.

The magisterial staff of the province at the close of the year consisted of 212 Stipendiary and 380 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 15 and a decrease of 63, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. A special Magistrate appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was employed on criminal work at Hatiya in the district of Noakhali. He decided 111 cases. Of the 212 Stipendiary Magistrates, 135 exercised first, 46 second, and 31 third class powers.

There were 55 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 380 Honorary Magistrates. Of these, 53 were independent and 2 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

126. There were 127,154 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 9,142 on the figures of 1905. Of these, 104,953 were under the Penal Code, and 22,201 were under Special and Local Laws. The increase in the offences under the former head was most marked in Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Dacca, Dinajpur, Bakarganj, and Rangpur, while there was a noticeable decrease in Sibsagar. Offences reported.

127. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1905, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 40,802 or 32 per cent. of the number reported. The percentage for 1905 was 33·8. Cases found to be false.

128. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 85,121 were found to be true, and 58,506 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 9,357 cases. Cases found to be true.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

129. At the opening of the year, 2,559 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates. During the year, 58,530 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, 57,861 were disposed of, and 3,186 were pending at its close. The number of cases brought to trial was 4,242 more than in 1905. The increase was mainly in offences against property and in offences affecting the human body. Cases disposed of.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

3	Tried regularly,		Tried summarily.	
	2		1	
District Magistrates	541		523	
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	36,994		10,394	
Honorary Magistrates	4,706		56	
Benches of Magistrates	3,254		1,217	
Special Magistrate	111		...	

Of the 541 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, one was decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri in exercise of his special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates decided 35 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

130. The number of persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates was 79,867. Of these, 48·2 per cent. were convicted, and 50·7 acquitted or discharged. The percentage of conviction in 1905 was 48·2 per cent. Results of trials.

Of the persons convicted, 10,854 were tried summarily, and the rest regularly. Appealable sentences were awarded on 21,300 persons.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1906 was 5,618, of whom 405 were in custody.

131. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :—

					Punish- ments.
Imprisonment	{	Rigorous	...	...	11,482
		Simple	...	...	330
Fine	{	With imprisonment	...	...	1,474
		Without imprisonment	...	...	23,198
Whipping	{	Sole punishment	...	...	535
		Additional punishment	...	...	78

A term of solitary confinement was included in 169 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and, in the case of 9 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. One thousand three hundred and eighty-three persons were called upon to give security for good behaviour, and 1,220 of these were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding

PROTEC-
TION.

one year on failing to comply with the orders. Two hundred and ten persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 66 cases, and 72 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 5,866 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 958 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 2,092 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 7,870 for terms not exceeding six months; 3,016 for terms not exceeding two years; and 45 for terms exceeding two years. Sentences of whipping were 39 more than in the preceding year. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 2,98,701. During the year Rs. 2,75,535 were realised out of which Rs. 41,968 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscella-
neous pro-
ceedings
under the
Code of
Criminal
Procedure.

132. Two thousand seven hundred and fifty-three proceedings were instituted under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 9,997 persons were involved, and 4,912 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace.

In 884 cases, 2,123 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 1,504. Of these, 1,341 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 796.

Under section 250 of the Code, 315 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusation brought by them having been found to be frivolous or vexatious.

Witnesses.

133. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates was 228,559 as compared with 217,015 in 1905. Of the total number in attendance, 71.9 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 18.4 per cent. on the second and 5.1 per cent. on the third. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 4,882 or 553 more than the number so detained in 1905. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 31,309 to Rs. 40,562.

II.—COURTS OF SESSION.

Committ-
ments, etc.

134. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 918 and the number disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 913, leaving 115 cases pending at its close. The commitments exceeded those of 1905 by 40.

Results of
trials.

135. There were 2,259 persons, or 166 more than in 1905, under trial before Courts of Session. The cases of 1,991 persons were decided, and 255 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 1,991 persons tried, 1,209, or 60.7 per cent., were convicted, and 716 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 66 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punish-
ments.

136. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year :—

Death	...	...	...	...	...	40
Transportation	{	For life	...	...	...	114
		For a term of years	...	...	...	19
Imprisonment	{	Rigorous	...	...	...	948
		Simple	...	...	...	...
Fine	...	...	...	...	...	28
Whipping	...	...	...	...	...	3

In the cases of 8 out of the 948 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement. In the cases of 4 youthful offenders, sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 23 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 2 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 121 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (2 for terms not exceeding one year and 119 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 4 persons who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. Fines to the amount of Rs. 4,525 were

imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 7,997 imposed in the preceding year. The realizations of the year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 1,529. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 138.

137. The number of persons tried by jury during 1906 was 690. The Sessions Judge approved the verdict of the jury in respect of 637 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 53. In the case of 26 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Jury trials.

138. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors was 980, with the result that in the case of 613 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 214 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 153 he differed from the opinion of both. Trials by Assessors.

139. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was 40.4 days, as compared with 41.6 days in 1905 and 51.2 days in 1904. The further reduction in the average period of the duration of Sessions trials is satisfactory. Duration of cases.

140. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 16,611. Of these, 9,706 were examined, and 6,905 discharged without examination. Of the total number in attendance, 41.8 per cent. were discharged on the first day; 29.2 per cent. on the second day; 16.5 per cent. on the third day; and 12.5 per cent. after the third day. The results show that witnesses have been detained for a slightly longer period than in 1905. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 25,333. Witnesses.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—HIGH COURT.

141. At the beginning of 1906 there were 27 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 433 appeals were preferred and 428 decided, leaving 34 pending at its close. One appeal abated on the death of the appellant. The numbers preferred, decided and pending were more than in 1905 by 27, 16 and 7, respectively.

Of the appeals preferred, 431 were from Courts of Session, and 1 from the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Four appeals were preferred by Government against orders of acquittal.

142. Four hundred and twenty-three appeals against sentences of Courts of Session were decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 322 instances, reversed in 28, and modified in 66. Seven cases were remanded for re-trial. In the appeal from the sentence of the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri, the original order was upheld. Four appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. In two cases the order was upheld, and in the remaining two, it was reversed. Results of appeals.

II.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

143. There were 92 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year, and during the year 2,704 appeals were preferred. Of these, 2,675 were decided and 119 were pending at the close of the year. Of the remaining two appeals, one was transferred to another district for hearing, and the other abated on the death of the appellant. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was greater by 211 than in 1905. Sessions Courts.

In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges, 4,342 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,261 of these, or 29 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,572 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 633 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 806 were acquitted; and in the case of 67 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. Taking into account admitted appeals only, the results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

144. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 123 appeals pending at the beginning of the year, and during the year, 2,280 appeals were preferred. Of these, 2,301 were decided, and 104 were pending at the close of the year. The number preferred was 55 less than in 1905. Magistrates' Courts.

PROTEC-
TION.

The numbers of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 3,843. Of these, the appeals of 854 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 1,786, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 2,640 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 68·6 per cent. Of the remainder, 416 appellants, or 10·8 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 763, or 19·8 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 24 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—HIGH COURT.

References
under
Section
307, Code
of Criminal
Procedure.

145. Three references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 17 were made during the year. Eighteen of these references were decided, and 2 remained undecided. The verdict of the jury was accepted in 7 cases, set aside in 9, and modified in 2.

References
under Sec-
tion 374,
Code of
Criminal
Procedure.

146. Twenty-nine references under Section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death-sentences were made to the High Court during 1906, and 2 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty-five of these, involving 32 persons, were disposed of. The death-sentence on 17 was confirmed, and, in the cases of 10, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining five persons were acquitted.

References
under sec-
tion 341,
Code of
Criminal
Procedure.

147. The cases of two persons who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings of the Courts were referred for the orders of the High Court during the year. In one of these cases, the conviction was approved and sentence passed by the High Court, and, in the other, a re-trial was ordered.

Revision.

148. During the year, 118 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 4 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 115 were decided and 7 remained pending. In 56 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 24 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 7 cases, and, in the remaining 28 cases, the High Court declined to interfere.

Orders were passed under Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 45 cases. Of these, 438 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 10 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 258 were rejected. Of 180 rules issued 60 were finally discharged; 66 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 34 cases, and in 20 cases a new trial was ordered.

Of the 12 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions statements, in 7 the orders passed by the Lower Courts were not disturbed, in 4 the sentences were enhanced, and in 1 a re-trial was ordered.

Applica-
tions for
transfer.

149. Two applications under Section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases from one Court or district to another, were on the files at the opening of the year, and 31 were made during the year. All of them were dealt with. Nine were summarily rejected and, in 3 cases, transfers were granted without issue of a rule. In 21 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 17 and refused in 4 cases.

II.—COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions
Courts.

150. The Courts of Session decided the cases of 4,875 persons on revision. Of these, the applications of 1,555 persons were rejected. The orders of the Lower Court were confirmed in the cases of 1,521 persons, reversed or modified in those of 44, and, in 5 instances, the proceedings were quashed. In the cases of 1,527 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed, and the cases of 223 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magist-
rate's
Courts.

151. The cases of 1,745 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The applications of 582 persons were rejected, and, in the cases of 558, the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 5 persons were modified, and those affecting 55 were reversed. In the cases of 18 persons, the proceedings were quashed, and in those of 500 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 27 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—GENERAL.

152. The cases of 16 European British subjects were decided during the year, against 28 in the previous year. All these cases were dealt with by Magistrates. Of the accused persons, none of whom claimed to be tried by a mixed jury, 5 were convicted and 11 acquitted. The convictions were in 3 cases for offences affecting the human body, and in 2 cases for offences against property. Trials of European and British subjects.

153. The total charges of the Criminal Courts for the year amounted to Rs. 13,29,814 and the receipts to Rs. 7,18,020. The receipts and the charges exceeded those of 1905 by over forty-seven thousand, and a lakh and twenty-eight thousand rupees, respectively. Receipts and charges.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

154. One thousand one hundred and fifty-nine cases were brought to trial during 1906 in the Criminal Courts of the hill districts and frontier tracts of the province, of which 1,113 were disposed of. The number of persons implicated in the cases decided was 1,640, of whom 1,187, or 72·3 per cent., were convicted. Forty-two appeals were preferred during the year to Deputy Commissioners against the orders of Subordinate Magistrates, and there were 19 appeals to Government against the orders of Deputy Commissioners. All these appeals were disposed of. The orders of the Lower Courts were confirmed by Deputy Commissioners in the case of 5 persons, reversed in the case of six, rejected in the case of fifty-six, and modified in the case of eight. Of the 19 appeals to Government, convictions were modified in 4 cases, and confirmed in the case of fifteen. Criminal Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[See Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906 ;
Judicial and Administrative Statistics for British India, Section V.]

155. The number of district and subsidiary jails at the close of the year was 21 and 33, respectively. Two sub-jails in Assam, *viz.*, Mangaldai and Golaghat, were reduced to the status of sub-jails in the Eastern Bengal districts. Number of Jails.

156. The total jail population, which was 7,071 at the beginning of the year, amounted to 8,103 at its close. The daily average population was 7,726·79 against 7,139·10 in 1905. This increase, which was distributed fairly evenly between convicts and under-trial prisoners, was probably due in part to the larger number of offences against property committed in consequence of the prevailing scarcity, and in part also to the greater activity of the police and to a larger number of petty crimes reported under the new system of village police administration introduced in the Dacca and Tippera districts. There was no material change in the distribution of prisoners among the several classes by age, religion, or profession ; but it is a noticeable fact that, while among male convicts nearly twice as many Muhammadans are found as Hindus, among female convicts the proportion is nearly the reverse. In spite of the increase in the total number of convicts, there was practically no change in the number sentenced to terms of imprisonment of more than one year. There was, however, a considerable increase in the numbers of those sentenced to transportation and of those sentenced to death.

157. The number of reconvicted prisoners was 1,415 against 1,297 in 1905, and the ratio per cent. to the total number admitted was 9·45 against 9·75. Of these, 905 were identified before conviction, and 11 after admission into jail, while 40 confessed themselves to be habitual criminals. Re-convictions.

158. Eight hundred and twenty prisoners of this class were under confinement at the beginning of the year and 901 at its close. The daily average population was 918·37 males and 23·79 females. The average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was 15·90. Under-trial prisoners.

159. The number of civil prisoners received during the year was 252 against 274 in 1905. Civil Prisoners.

160. No serious breaches of discipline were reported, but there was a considerable increase both in the number of jail offences (8,292 as compared with 7,418 in 1905) and Discipline.

PROTEC-
TION.

in the percentage of punishments to the average number of convicts. As in the previous year, it was found that, in the majority of jails, the proportion of B class prisoners punished was greater than that of the A class.

Escapes.

161. The number of escapes increased from 22 to 30. Twenty-two prisoners were re-captured during the year, as were also 6, who had escaped in previous years. The large number of escapes indicates a laxity of discipline greatly to be deplored.

Accommo-
dation.

162. The jails and subsidiary jails had accommodation for 8,196 prisoners of all classes, and the average prison population was 7,726·79. In consequence of the increase in the daily average number of prisoners, there was a good deal of inevitable overcrowding in almost all the jails in Eastern Bengal. Several schemes are on foot for providing the additional accommodation required, but very little has yet been accomplished in this direction. The enlargement of the Nowgong jail has been delayed. A new hospital in the Mymensingh jail has been finished, and some progress made with the additions to the Barisal jail. But these schemes will not suffice for the accommodation of the increased number of prisoners; and it is proposed to enlarge considerably the jails at Comilla and Bogra, which are two of the healthiest in the province. Very little has been done towards providing means for the segregation of habitual offenders in the day time, but provision is being made for this in all new schemes.

Health.

163. The most satisfactory feature of the year was its extreme healthiness. The proportion of admissions into hospital, 876·43 per mille, is the lowest on record, and the number of deaths from all causes, 27·95 per mille, though higher than in 1904, is well below the average of the decade. The Sylhet, Comilla, and Bogra jails were particularly healthy, and the Central jail at Rampur Boalia shows an improvement on the previous year. Barisal is still unhealthy, but not so much so as formerly. On the other hand, the Central Jail at Dacca was much less healthy than in 1905, and the record of the Malda, Faridpur, Gauhati, and Dibrugarh jails is distinctly bad.

Employ-
ment of
Prisoners.

164. The average number of convicts available for work was 5,814·27, and the average number employed on unremunerative labour 234·33. The number employed on manufactures was 2,619·86.

Profits of
Manufac-
tures.

165. The total drawings from the treasury amounted to Rs. 2,97,882 and the total remittances to Rs. 3,75,236, showing a cash profit from manufactures of Rs. 77,354 as compared with Rs. 85,204 in the preceding year.

Expendi-
ture.

166. The total expenditure, including the cost of general supervision, was Rs. 7,36,497 against Rs. 5,65,973. The gross average cost per head, Rs. 95-5-1, was Rs. 16-2-11 more than in 1905, but nearly the whole of the excess is accounted for by the increase in dietary charges, due to the high price of food-grains, and by the heavier charge for supervision, owing to the creation of a separate post of Inspector General from October 1905.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[See—Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Jurisdic-
tion.

167. The only alteration in the local limits of the jurisdiction of the courts was the transfer of the district of Jalpaiguri from the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Rangpur to that of the District Judge of Dinajpur with effect from the 1st June 1906.

Judicial
Staff.

168. The permanent Civil Judicial Staff employed in the province during the year consisted of 13 District and Sessions Judges; 2 Additional District and Sessions Judges; 1 Provincial Small Cause Court Judge, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 20 Subordinate Judges; and 141 Munsifs. In addition, 7 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge and 20 the powers of a Munsif. The Subordinate Judges and Munsifs employed in the Assam Valley and Cachar were members of the Executive Service vested with judicial powers under sections 25 and 36 of the Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Assam Civil Courts Act.

In addition to the permanent staff, a temporary Additional Munsif was employed in Dacca (Dacca-Narainganj) throughout the year; and another was employed at Netrokona (Mymensingh) from the beginning of the year till the 24th July.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

169. The number of original suits instituted in the province in 1906 was 363,219 or 4,573 more than in the previous year. Of these, 179,116 were suits for money or moveables, 145,908 were rent-suits, and 38,195 title and other suits. The number of suits for money or moveables increased by 7 per cent., rent-suits increased by 2 per cent., while in title and other suits there was an increase of 7·4 per cent. The total value of suits instituted amounted to Rs. 3,25,31,110.

Original
suits insti-
tuted.

170. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts, except Rangpur, Tippera, Dacca and Faridpur.

Local dis-
tribution.

171. Adding to the number of suits instituted during the year those which were pending at its commencement, and those which, during the year, were revived or received on remand or review, we find the total number of suits for disposal to be 424,825. Of these, 365,263 were disposed of, or 494 less than the total disposed of in the previous year. The decrease, however, occurred entirely in uncontested suits, which fell from 296,179 to 293,062, the disposals of contested suits having increased from 69,578 to 72,201. In Eastern Bengal the number of suits disposed of was less by 1,963 than in the previous year. In Assam there was an increase of 1,469. The number of suits pending at the close of the year rose from 55,948 to 58,361. There was a marked decrease in the duration of contested suits tried under the ordinary procedure by District and Subordinate Judges.

Number of
suits dis-
posed of.

172. In the suits disposed of, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 21·5 per cent.; in 8·9 per cent. a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 69·6 per cent.

Results of
disposals.

Of the 72,201 suits decided after contest, 83·8 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs and 16·2 per cent. in favour of defendants.

173. The proportion of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex parte* was 4·4 per cent., the numbers being 10,870 and 243,074 respectively. The applications were successful in 46·7 per cent. of the cases.

Applica-
tions for
re-trial.

174. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs shows an increase of 229 over the figures for 1905. Over one-third of these were under the Small Cause Court procedure. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,179.

Suits decid-
ed by
Munsifs.

175. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1906 was 69,195 or 19·5 per cent. of the total. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 21·4, and, in suits under Small Cause Court procedure, 16·2.

176. The number of original suits decided by Subordinate Judges under the ordinary procedure was 1,726, and, under the Small Cause Court procedure, 4,308; of these, 37·1 per cent. and 24·2 per cent., respectively, were contested.

Suits dis-
posed of by
Subordi-
nate
Judges.

177. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 5,936 original suits, of which 1,232 were contested.

Disposals
by Small
Cause
Courts.
Execution
Proceed-
ings.

178. There were 54,836 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 277,934 such applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 69,154 and partial satisfaction in 61,291 cases. In 138,650 cases, the proceedings were returned as infructuous; and 58,466 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realised in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 82,21,500. Debtors were imprisoned in 189 cases, moveable property was sold in 8,111 cases, immoveable property in 29,902 cases. Possession of immoveable property was given in 15,589 cases.

179. Of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings, 33,520 were instituted during the year, 32,968 were disposed of, and 7,289 were left pending. Of the cases disposed of, 12,364 were withdrawn, compromised, or confessed; 11,448 were decided *ex parte*, and 9,156 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 50·1 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 12 had been pending more than a year.

Miscella-
neous
cases.

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and disposed of during the year was 5,996 and 6,017, respectively.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—APPEALS IN THE HIGH COURT.

180. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the superior Civil Courts in Eastern Bengal and Assam, which came before the High Court and which were decided during the past year, was as follows:—

—				Pending at the end of 1905.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1906.
1				2	3	4	5
<i>First Appeals.</i>							
From Decrees	...	...	...	252	110	133	229
From Orders	...	...	...	130	63	54	139
<i>Second Appeals.</i>							
From Decrees	...	...	...	1,640	868	1,012	1,496
From Orders	...	...	...	72	84	112	44
Total	...	...	...	2,094	1,125	1,311	1,908

Of the 978 appeals from decrees instituted during the year, 363, or 37·1 per cent., were valued at less than Rs. 50.

Results of
appeals.

181. Of the 133 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, 49 were uncontested, being dismissed for default, withdrawn, or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 52 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 6 reversed, 21 were modified, and 5 remanded.

Of the 399 appeals from appellate decrees of District Judges, 79 were summarily rejected, 6 were compromised, 3 withdrawn, and 1 dismissed for default; while, of the remainder, 232 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 11 reversed, 8 modified, and 59 remanded to the Lower Courts.

Of the 166 appeals from orders decided during the last year, 45 were uncontested and 121 were decided after trial. Of the latter, 80 orders of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 16 reversed, 10 varied, and 15 remanded.

II.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Appeals in-
stituted.

182. There were 10,181 appeals instituted in 1906, of which 4,567 were in title-suits, 3,972 in rent suits, and 1,642 in suits for money or moveables. The number was 195 more than in 1905, and the increase occurred chiefly in title-suits. There was a decrease of 261 in rent suits.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,197 and 3,726, respectively. The total value of appeals instituted in 1906 was Rs. 13,51,822, exceeding the total of 1905 by over one lakh.

The number of appealable cases decided by Subordinate Courts during the year was 46,574, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 21·8 per cent.

Appeals
disposed
of.

183. The number of appeals disposed of was 10,084, or 1,044 less than in the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of by District and Additional Judges was 2,960 and by Subordinate Judges 7,124. The decrease in disposals was mainly due to the fact that District and Sessions Judges were unable to take up so much civil work in 1906 as in 1905.

Appeals
pending.

184. There were 5,549 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 321 more than at the end of 1905. The number of appeals pending for more than one year was reduced from 86 to 77.

Result of
appeals.

185. The result on the decisions of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows—In 53·7 per cent. of the whole the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 11·9 per cent. it was modified; and in 15·3 per cent. it was reversed. The results are slightly more favourable to the Lower Courts than those of the preceding year. Three hundred and ninety-two appeals were remanded and 1,520 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

186. There were 1,285 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year and 1,238 were disposed of, 307 remaining pending at the close of the year.

187. The receipts of the Civil Courts increased from Rs. 54,08,017 to Rs. 55,57,603 and the charges from Rs. 20,83,692 to Rs. 21,85,643. Including the amount of Rs. 78,193 realized on account of duty on Probates, etc., there was a profit to Government from the civil litigation of Rs. 33,71,960, or Rs. 47,635 more than in the previous year; and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 32,93,767. The increase in receipts was due mainly to the increase in the volume of litigation.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

188. The number of civil suits instituted in the courts of hill districts and frontier tracts of the province in 1906 was 1,426, the value of the suits instituted being Rs. 1,07,862. Including suits pending from the previous year, there were 2,542 cases to be dealt with, of which 1,802 were disposed of. Seventy-five appeals against the orders of the Lower Courts were preferred to Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates, who disposed of 33, including appeals pending from the previous year. Decrees were confirmed in 44 cases, reversed in 8, and modified in 6, while 5 cases were remanded. Ten appeals were preferred to Government, of which five were disposed. The decree of the Lower Court was confirmed in 4 cases and one case was remanded. There were 1,609 applications for execution of decrees, of which 998 were dealt with and decided.

SECTION. 7—REGISTRATION.

[See Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IX.]

189. During the year the clerical establishments of rural offices were fixed according to a definite scale and the ministerial officers in all Sub-Registry offices made whole-time Government servants. Administration.

190. Five new experimental sub-registry offices were opened in the province, viz., at Damadia in Faridpur, at Kutubdia in Chittagong, at Lalmanirhat in Rangpur, at Chatkhel in Noakhali and at Lakhipur in Cachar. There were thus altogether 221 offices, against 216 in the previous year. Registration offices.

191. The total number of deeds registered increased from 735,348 to 801,099, or by 8.27 per cent. The increase was due partly to the scarcity which prevailed in certain districts, partly to the opening of additional offices, but largely to the growing popularity of registration operations. Of the deeds registered, 712,857 related to transactions affecting immoveable property, 87,216 were concerned with moveable property and 1,016 were wills. There was a large increase of 72,878 documents in the compulsory class of registrations which is stated to be due to the fact that the provisions of Act VI of 1904 are now becoming better known, and to the high price of food-grains which had the effect of increasing the number of sales and mortgages. Documents registered.

192. The total receipts of the Department rose from Rs. 7,46,891 in 1905 to Rs. 8,04,870 in 1906, or by 7.17 per cent., and the total expenditure from Rs. 4,28,051 to Rs. 4,40,975. Receipts and Expenditure.

193. The following table gives details of the working of Act I (B.C.) of 1876 under the principal heads during the last two years :—

Working
of the
Muhamma-
dan Marri-
age Regis-
tration Act.

Year.	Number of districts in which Act I (B.C.) of 1876 was in force.	Number of offices open at the close of the year.	Number of marriages registered.	Number of talak divorces registered.	Number of khula divorces registered.	Total number of ceremonies registered.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1905-1906 ...	16	164	21,907	8,786	2,984	33,677
1906-1907 ...	16	166	25,433	11,365	3,969	40,767

Two new offices, one at Matbaria in Bakarganj and the other at Nawabganj in Dinajpur, were opened during the year. No ceremonies were registered in six offices, and the average number of registrations in the remaining offices was about 255. With the increase in the number of registrations the income of the Muhammadan

Marriage Registrars has risen. Their total receipts, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 71,507 or 26·03 per cent. more than in the previous year.

The Act has recently been extended to the Assam Valley districts, and Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis will be appointed to the several districts in the valley when the Permanent Committee for the supervision of the Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis of the province has been constituted. Proposals regarding the appointment of the Committee are now under the consideration of Government.

Registra-
tions under
Act III of
1872.

194. Seven marriages were registered under Act III of 1872. The ages of bridegrooms ranged from 22 to 35 and those of brides from 14 to 20 years. One widow, aged 20, was remarried.

Working of
the Indian
Companies
Act (Act VI
of 1882).

195. Sixteen new companies were registered during the year and eight ceased to work. Ninety-one companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 65,53,270 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 39,79,434 and one company limited by guarantee were working at the close of the year. The total amount of fees realised was Rs. 1,475.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[See Resolution on the Annual Reports on the working of Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1906-1907 ; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

Number of
Municipali-
ties.

196. One Municipal institution was added during the year by the constitution of the Hailakandi Union in Cachar. The total number of Municipalities and Municipal institutions at the close of the year was 50, of which 39 were constituted under Act III (B.C.) of 1884 and 11 (5 Municipalities, 2 Stations and 4 Unions) under Act V (B.C.) of 1876.

By-laws.

197. In the Chittagong Division, a set of model rules was sanctioned for the Chandpur Municipality. In the Assam Valley the by-laws of the Sibsagar Station were revised and by-laws under the Hackney Carriage Act for the Dibrugarh Municipality were framed by the Commissioners and approved by Government. These were subsequently cancelled on the recommendation of the Commissioners. In the Dhubri and Goalpara Municipalities clause 8 of by-law No. I, prohibiting processions without the consent of the Municipal Commissioners, was rescinded.

Extension
of Acts.

198. Part IX of Act III (B.C.) of 1884 was extended to the Dhubri Municipality. Jhalokati was brought under the operation of Part X soon after the close of the year. The provisions of section 258 of the Act were extended to the Nawabganj Municipality. The provisions of section 261 were extended to the town of Sylhet, to enable the Commissioners to regulate hotels, but action had to be deferred owing to the omission of the Commissioners to publish the Government Notification in the manner prescribed by section 222 of the Act. The Glanders and Farcy Act (XIII of 1899) was extended to the Rampur Boalia Municipality.

Elections.

199. The system of election was introduced in the Chandpur Municipality, thus raising the number of towns in which the system is in force to 34. General elections were held in eight Municipalities, and in Ward III of the English Bazar Municipality. In the Chittagong Division, where three general elections were held, keen contests were reported in several instances, and specially in the town of Chittagong, in some of the wards of Noakhali, and in Comilla where the Muhammadans showed much interest and secured 8 of the 12 vacancies. In the Dacca Division, where three by-elections were held, the election was contested in only one town, Tangail. In the Surma Valley a fresh election was held in Sylhet on account of corrupt practices. Muhammadan candidates secured six of the ten vacancies in this town. The reports of the Rajshahi and Assam Valley Divisions give no indication that the elections aroused any interest.

Meetings.

200. The number of meetings held was 723, against 718 in 1905-1906. Jhalokati and Pirojpur held the largest number of meetings (31), Sherpur in Mymensingh (27), and Nawabganj (24) coming next. In the Assam districts Dhubri stood first with 22 meetings. Of the 13 institutions which failed to hold the prescribed number of 12 meetings in the year, 7 were in Assam, the worst defaulter being the Habiganj Union. In all 76 meetings were adjourned for want of a quorum, to which Pirojpur contributed the largest number.

Number of
rate-payers.
proportion
of rate-
payers to
population.

201. The total number of rate-payers (105,866) showed a small increase of 863 ; the percentage to urban population was 16·9, compared with 16·8 in 1905-1906. Nawabganj again headed the list with a percentage of 31·8, while Narayanganj,

which is one of the most advanced Municipalities in the province, came last with a percentage of 9·7. Its anomalous position is due to the presence of a large number of factory labourers who pay no rates directly, the taxes being paid by their employers. The divisional percentage was highest in Rajshahi (20·1) and lowest in Dacca (14·5). The Commissioner thinks that this result is probably due to the characteristic formation of Municipalities in his division—an urban core with a considerable rural area surrounding it.

202. A rate on holdings was in force in 14 Municipalities compared with 13 in the preceding year. It was also in force in certain wards of Madaripur. The alternative tax on persons, which brings in less revenue, and is more popular, was levied in the remaining 35 towns. The rate on holdings was levied at the maximum rates in Dacca (10 per cent.) and in Gauhati, Silchar, Shillong, Madaripur, Chittagong, and Noakhali. Government buildings were, as usual, assessed at the maximum rate. A water-rate was levied in Mymensingh, Gauhati and Shillong, and latrine fees in 34 towns and certain mahallas of Rampur Boalia. A scheme for providing the capital of the province (Dacca) with a suitable water-supply is under consideration. A liberal grant from Government has been promised, and it is hoped that the scheme will be pushed through without delay. Filtered water is supplied to certain parts of the town, and the fee levied on house connections yielded an income of Rs. 9,852. The revision of the assessment of water-rates in Gauhati, which was sanctioned in November 1905, was not carried out, as the new mains had not been completed before the close of the year.

Methods of
taxation.

203. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 1-5-11, against Rs. 1-5-10 in the preceding year. It rose from Rs. 1-5-9 to Rs. 1-6-0 in the Eastern Bengal towns, where Act III (B.C.) of 1884 is in force. In the four towns of Assam under the same Act the average was Rs. 1-11-11, showing a decrease of 2 annas 2 pies per head as compared with the previous year. The incidence varied between Rs. 3-1-3 at Shillong to Re. 0-5-5 at Bazitpur. It was less than 8 annas in five other towns, against four in 1905-1906.

Incidence
of taxation.

204. Assessments were revised generally or partially in 23 Municipalities. In 5 towns the revision was brought into effect during the year, although the revision had been made in 1905-1906. The revision provided for a net increase of income of Rs. 8,501, but the actual receipts were only Rs. 6,173 in excess of those of the preceding year. In 1905-1906 revision of assessments resulted in an increase of revenue of Rs. 25,353. With the very low rates of assessment in force in the majority of the towns of Eastern Bengal, the small increase of Rs. 6,173 in 1906-1907 cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The high prices of food-grains are said to have affected collections in some towns in the Chittagong Division, and the same cause may have operated in other divisions.

Revision of
assess-
ment.

205. The aggregate income of the Municipalities, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 14,21,798, or Rs. 71,161 more than in 1905-1906. Excluding Provincial and Local grants, private contributions and loans from Government, the increase amounted to Rs. 7,149. Grants to Municipal bodies in the Assam districts showed but small variation. Shillong received a special contribution of Rs. 5,500 for the general improvement of the town and its public bazar, compared with a grant of Rs. 6,000 in 1905-1906. Special grants of Rs. 10,000 were made to the Dacca Municipality for the up-keep of town roads and of Rs. 8,000 to Chittagong for jungle clearing. The increase (Rs. 75,953) under the head "Extraordinary and debt" is due partly to the larger loans granted by Government and partly to the change of system authorised by the Government of India in Resolution No. 14—26, dated the 29th January 1907, in accordance with which the difference between the value of cheques issued and cashed during the year has been included in the total receipts. Receipts from class III dispensaries are also included in this total. Loans from Government aggregated Rs. 79,000, compared with Rs. 22,270 in 1905-1906. Excluding receipts under Extraordinary and debt, grants from Provincial and Local revenues, and private contributions, the total revenue of the year showed a decrease of Rs. 12,074, or 1 per cent. There was an increase in receipts under the heads "Municipal rates and taxes," "markets and slaughter-houses" and under "Grants and contributions," but the income derived from water-rates, from realization under special Acts and from Municipal property showed a considerable decline.

Income
from vari-
ous sour-
ces.

206. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,81,820, or an increase of Rs. 24,481. The ordinary expenditure (excluding repayment of loans, advances, deposits, and the like) amounted to Rs. 12,12,408, or an increase of Rs. 57,771, which was shared by all divisions, except Rajshahi and the Assam Valley districts. The principal heads under which increases occurred were Roads (Rs. 41,837), Conser-

Expendi-
ture.

PROTECTION.

vancy (Rs. 37,958), Water-supply (Rs. 7,686) and "Other sanitary requirements" (Rs. 9,435). Expenditure under "Office and collection establishment," under "Hospitals and dispensaries" and under "Extraordinary and debt" showed, on the other hand, a decline of Rs. 6,896, Rs. 22,276 and Rs. 33,290, respectively.

Water-supply (Rs. 84,837).

207. The total expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 7,686. Under Maintenance charges (Rs. 64,776) there was a small increase of Rs. 742, and under Capital outlay (Rs. 20,061), an increase of Rs. 6,944 due chiefly to the acquisition of land by the Narayanganj Municipality for the water-works which they propose to provide. A loan of Rs. 1,50,000 has been granted by Government for this scheme, and it is anticipated that the supply of good water to the town will not long be delayed. In the town of Dacca minor improvements were carried out; the settling tanks were cleaned, and the river sand was renewed in all the filters. The daily average delivery increased from 306,958 gallons to 308,817 gallons, but this is wholly inadequate for a population of over ninety thousand. A scheme for remodelling and largely extending the water-works is at present under the consideration of Government in the Public Works Department. The Mymensingh Municipality applied to Government for a loan of Rs. 25,000 to enable the Commissioners to carry out certain projected improvements. The Chairman has been asked as a preliminary to consider the advisability of substituting a rate on the annual value of holdings for the tax on persons, which is now in force and brings in very little revenue. In Chittagong, where the expenditure increased by Rs. 3,467, a scheme was initiated for the supply of drinking water from a large tank by means of pumps to a reservoir, with a capacity of 45,000 gallons. Since the close of the year, 9,650 feet of pipes have been laid with 10 stand posts. Experiments with artesian wells are being made by Government. A boring of 200 feet has already been made, but water has not been reached. The sanctioned scheme provided for a boring of 700 feet. In Chandpur the inhabitants of the northern part of the town obtained their drinking water from Pasteur filters and from tanks specially reserved for the purpose. The Commissioners have been considering a scheme for the supply of drinking water to the whole of the Municipality. The water filter at Faridpur worked well, the daily supply being 1,000 gallons of excellent water. The Barisal water-works scheme having been found to be beyond the means of the Municipality, the Commissioners are contemplating its abandonment in favour of a less expensive project. In Rampur Boalia a scheme is under preparation for the trial of the Faridpur pattern filter. The new water-works at Gauhati were opened from the 1st April 1906. Owing, however, to delay in delivering the new pump, the old pump was utilised with disastrous results. It broke down repeatedly, and the supply of water ceased for some days in November, when cholera broke out. Arrangements were, however, promptly made to pump water into the mains direct from the Brahmaputra. The new pump was erected by the middle of February, and since then the towns people have had a liberal supply. Generally speaking, there are distinct signs of interest being shown by Municipal Commissioners in providing a pure water-supply.

Public Works (Rs. 2,50,931.)

208. The expenditure on Public Works increased by Rs. 36,524, chiefly in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. In the Dacca Municipality the increase (Rs. 23,044) was due mainly to payments for the acquisition of land. Narayanganj also exceeded its expenditure of 1905-1906 by Rs. 3,230, chiefly in repair and construction of roads damaged by floods. In the Chittagong Division, though no important original work was carried out, the expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 4,174, chiefly on roads; the increase was confined to the Chittagong Municipality. In the Rajshahi Division there was an increase of Rs. 5,170 also on roads. In the Assam Valley expenditure on roads decreased by Rs. 1,775, owing to a short expenditure of nearly Rs. 4,500 in Gauhati alone. Useful work appears to have been done in improving roads in the towns of Dhubri, Nowgong, Dibrugarh, and Sibsagar. In the Surma Valley, Silchar increased its expenditure on roads by Rs. 4,164. The outlay on "Buildings" fell off by Rs. 1,162. Charges under Establishment showed an increase of Rs. 1,072, but the percentage to total expenditure on Public Works (20.7) was rather less than in 1905-1906. Although no important original work was executed during the year, much was done in maintaining existing communications.

Conservancy (Rs. 4,01,002).

209. The outlay on Conservancy exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 37,958. The increase was shared by all divisions, except the Assam Valley districts, and was largest in the Dacca Division, where it amounted to Rs. 16,286. In the Dacca Municipality the increase of Rs. 6,558 was due to acquisition of land for the extension

of the trenching ground. Chandpur increased its expenditure by Rs. 4,837, owing to the entertainment of sweepers for the southern section of the Municipality, to which the latrine system had been newly extended. Increased expenditure was incurred on the construction of new sheds for sweepers, purchase of carts and dust-bins, and the entertainment of additional sweepers. New latrines were also erected in several towns on the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner.

The percentage of expenditure on conservancy to total municipal expenditure increased from 31.5 to 33.1. In seven towns it exceeded 40 per cent., *viz.*, Shillong (51.5), Habiganj (49.5), Noakhali (46.0), Dibrugarh (42.9), Muktagacha and Barisal (41.1), and Narayanganj (40.7). In the Patuakhali Municipality the percentage (5.3) showed a slight improvement.

For the town of Dacca a complete conservancy scheme has been prepared by the Sanitary Commissioner and sanctioned by Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,98,894. A grant of Rs. 1,24,000 from Provincial revenues and an annual subsidy of Rs. 7,500 for a period of five years from the completion of the scheme has been guaranteed to the Municipality, who have also been promised a loan of Rs. 75,000. A general scheme for the drainage of the town is under consideration, and, as a preliminary, survey maps have been prepared. The sewage filter at Nayasarak is said to have worked satisfactorily, but no experiment was made with the septic tank which was built three years ago.

210. The total expenditure under Medical was Rs. 22,176 less than in 1905-1906. The decrease was shared by all divisions, except the Surma Valley and Hill districts and was largest in the Rajshahi Division, where it amounted to Rs. 18,382. Jalpaiguri was responsible for more than two-thirds, owing to special outlay in 1905-1906 on the new hospital building. For similar reasons the expenditure in Comilla and Mymensingh decreased by Rs. 2,680 and Rs. 1,000, respectively. The decrease of Rs. 2,664 in Dacca was due to account adjustments in connection with the payment by the Madhabpassa Wards estate of interest on Rs. 1,00,500 lent by the Mitford Hospital Fund. The interest on this money was incorrectly included in the Municipal accounts for 1905-1906, and had to be refunded to the Hospital Fund during the year. In Narayanganj, Rangpur, Jhalokati, and Faridpur the expenditure under Medical showed an increase, owing to the construction of dispensary buildings or to the acquisition of land for such buildings. The Sylhet municipal dispensary continued its useful work, the number of out-patients having increased from 14,333 to 17,195. In the Rajshahi Division there was an outbreak of plague in the villages adjoining Sirajganj and the English Bazar Municipality, but its progress was arrested before it reached municipal limits. Both municipalities incurred some expenditure on precautionary measures.

Medical
(Rs. 1,45,
556).

211. The expenditure on Education exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 4,666. The increase was common to all divisions, except Dacca and the Surma Valley. The percentage of outlay on Education on total expenditure by the Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam was 4.0. The percentage was highest in the Chittagong (9.0) and lowest (1.8) in the Dacca Division, and varied from 1.3 in Dacca and Narayanganj to 16.1 in Chittagong.

Public in-
struction
(Rs. 49,
495).

212. In the town of Dacca a part of the Buckland bund was raised and converted into a public garden at a cost of Rs. 2,118. Public gardens were also provided near one of the burning ghats, and at St. Thomas' Church, and some land was acquired for a new slaughter and pauper burial ground. In Narayanganj much useful work appears to have been done. In addition to repairs to roads and bridges two new roads and a bridge were constructed, an incinerator for burning street sweepings was erected, and two rotary lift and force pumps for cleansing night-soil carts at the trenching grounds were purchased. The *Chisara* drainage was improved at a cost of Rs. 1,081. In Barisal land was acquired for a conservancy depôt, and new instruments and appliances were purchased for the hospital. A new trenching ground at Jhalokati was acquired and raised, while Pirojpur contributed Rs. 400 towards the excavation of a reserved tank for drinking water. The old fish market in Chittagong was removed to a more convenient site and provided with *pucca* platform and drains. In Rampur Boalia a large ditch in the Civil lines was filled in, and a plot of land was acquired for the extension of the Muhammadan burial-ground. In Bogra *pucca* masonry culverts were constructed and a big cart road was metalled. The municipal market of English Bazar was much improved. Masonry wells were sunk in many municipalities. Rupees 2,300 was spent by the Shillong Station Committee in eradicating the lantana plant, the spread of which was considered injurious. Dhubri purchased a new pump for the Jubilee well, while Gauhati improved the municipal market at Fansi Bazar and constructed a

Municipal
improve-
ments.

PROTECTION.

masonry drain in Uzan Bazar. In Tezpur an unwholesome depression near the school building was levelled, and new *pucca* drains were provided for the new municipal bazar. In Silchar spence cotton trees were planted in certain selected areas. The improvements effected in the majority of cases consisted mainly in the construction, repairs, and metalling of roads, the provision of additional street lamps, dust-bins, and the sinking of wells.

Demands, collections, and balances.

213. The current demand, Rs. 8,26,573, was Rs. 18,218 in excess of that of the previous year. All divisions, except the Assam Valley districts, contributed to the increase which was especially marked in the Dacca Division, where it rose from Rs. 3,95,303 to Rs. 4,07,345. The total demand, including arrears, amounted to Rs. 8,59,000, or Rs. 22,794 more than in 1905-1906. Of this amount, 91·5 per cent. was collected and 2·5 per cent. remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 51,209 during the year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand fell from 96·9 to 95·1, due to heavy remissions, in Dacca, Barisal, Rampur Boalia, Pabna, Sirajganj, Shillong and Dibrugarh.

Financial position of Municipalities. Closing balances.

214. The total funds available for expenditure, including an opening balance of Rs. 2,54,816, amounted to Rs. 16,76,616, against Rs. 15,99,511 in 1905-1906. A total expenditure of Rs. 13,81,820 was incurred, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,94,796, or Rs. 52,524 in excess of the opening balance. Of this amount, however, Rs. 32,720 was actually spent during the year, but was included in the column of "Deposits" as representing the value of uncashed cheques. The actual credit balance was, therefore, Rs. 2,62,076. The inclusion of unspent loans and grants from Government chiefly accounted for the comparatively large balances in Narayanganj, Chandpur, Faridpur, and Barisal. In the English Bazar the large balance was due to the accumulation of Rs. 12,436 for a drainage scheme. Non-payment of outstanding bills and short expenditure on sanctioned works accounted for increased balances in some other towns. All municipal bodies, with one exception, closed the year in a sound financial position. The exception was Sibsagar, which had a closing balance of only Rs. 146.

Loans.—Financial position of indebted municipalities.

215. Fifteen municipalities had outstanding loans at the close of the year. Five new loans, aggregating Rs. 79,000, were granted during the year. Narayanganj and Barisal drew their first instalment of Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 5,000, respectively, of the loans sanctioned for water-works, while Rs. 8,000 was lent to the Chandpur Municipality for the construction of an iron bridge over the Napitbari khal. Sherpur obtained a loan of Rs. 2,000 for metalling its central road, and Jalpaiguri Rs. 4,000 for the reconstruction of the wooden bridge over the Karla. The outstanding loan balance rose from Rs. 1,68,853 to Rs. 2,24,392. Against this, however, must be set off the amount of Rs. 9,000 payable to the Shillong Station Committee by the Siem of Myllem. The net indebtedness was therefore Rs. 2,15,392, about two-thirds of which represents the debt of the Dacca and Narayanganj Municipalities. The financial position of municipalities indebted to Government is generally satisfactory.

Audit and embezzlements.

216. The introduction of a systematic local audit of the accounts of Municipal institutions in the districts of Assam was sanctioned by the Government of India, with effect from the 1st November 1907. The accounts of 1905-1906 were, as usual, audited in the office of the Accountant General. In Eastern Bengal the accounts were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts. One case of embezzlement was brought to light at Nawabganj. The tax daroga of the Municipality absconded with some account books after embezzling a sum of Rs. 490. The culprit is still at large.

General.

217. The administration of the year may be described generally as one of slow improvement. The notes recorded by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner on their tours of inspection indicate that in most towns inadequate arrangements exist for the supply of drinking water, for conservancy, and for drainage. The recommendations made at previous inspections were carried out by the more advanced towns, so far as funds were available.

SECTION 9.—District and Local Boards.

[See Resolution on the working of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal and Local Boards in Assam, during the year 1906-1907; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

Number of Boards.

218. Two additions were made during the year to the institutions under local Self-Government by the establishment of a subdivisional Local Board at Balurghat in Dinajpur, and of a Union at Akhaura in Tippera.

PROTEC-
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Constitu-
tion of
District
Boards,
Eastern
Bengal.

219. The number of members (283) remained unchanged, and of these 75 were *ex-officio* members, 107 were nominated and 101 elected. The number of meetings held was 202, of which 11 proved abortive for want of a quorum. In the preceding year 214 meetings were held, of which 21 were abortive. The average attendance of members (54 per cent.), showed a slight falling off, though fewer meetings were held. This was due to the apparent lack of interest shown by non-official members, whose percentage of attendance (50·0) compared unfavourably with that of official members (61·0).

220. The reorganisation of these Boards, which took effect from 1st April 1906, resulted in a reduction in the number of members from 363 to 314, of whom 76 were *ex-officio*, 69 nominated, and 169 elected. One hundred and thirty-two meetings were held, of which 7 proved abortive. Gauhati held the largest number of meetings, while Dibrugarh, South Sylhet, Tezpur, and Mangaldai failed to hold the prescribed minimum of six. Non-officials were as regular in attendance as official members.

Constitu-
tion of As-
sam Local
Boards.

221. With the establishment of a Local Board in Balurghat, the number of members increased from 363 to 370. Of these, 21 were *ex-officio*, 215 nominated, and 134 elected. Kishorganj and Pirojpur held 24 meetings each, while twelve Boards held less than 12 meetings each. One of these, Alipore, met on only four occasions. The average attendance of non-officials per meeting was only 45 per cent. Seventy-nine meetings proved abortive, compared with 70, in the preceding year.

Constitu-
tion of
Eastern
Bengal Lo-
cal Boards.

222. The interest shown by members of District and Local Boards in Self-Government may fairly be gauged by the attendance at meetings. The figures quoted in the preceding paragraphs indicate that Local Board members in Assam take a much greater interest in local affairs than members of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal.

General
remarks.

The Commissioner of the Dacca Division thinks that some of the reasons for the lack of interest are that—

- (a) meetings are held as a matter of course, and not because there are matters of importance to discuss ;
- (b) the agenda include many details, which in Assam would be disposed of by the Chairman ; and
- (c) very few of the members know anything of the interior or its needs.

The reluctance on the part of the *munfussal* gentry, whose acquaintance with the interior would be of real assistance, to stand for election is one of the most potent causes of the stagnation which characterizes Local Self-Government institutions. To overcome this reluctance and induce suitable persons to come forward should be the object of every District Officer.

223. The proportion of Muhammadan members in Eastern Bengal Boards rose from 26·16 to 34·3. In the Dacca Division the percentage was 37, in Chittagong 29, and in Rajshahi 34. The increase is satisfactory, but, seeing that the Mahammadan community number two-thirds of the total population, it is inadequately represented. It is noticeable that while Muhammadans represent 40 per cent. of the Local Board membership, they constitute a little more than a fourth (27 per cent.) of the District Boards. The difficulty of finding suitable Muhammadan gentlemen willing to serve is referred to by all Commissioners. The Mymensingh district is exceptional in having 48 per cent. of Muhammadans serving on the District Board and 56 per cent. on the Local Boards.

Muhamma-
dan repre-
sentation.

224. The number of Union Committees increased from nine to ten, Akhaura having been added during the year. Of these, all but Shazadpur are in the Chittagong Division. The aggregate income of these bodies increased from Rs. 4,260 to Rs. 9,793 and the expenditure from Rs. 3,475 to Rs. 5,148. Five Unions expended practically the whole of the allotments placed at their disposal. The Akhaura Union, which was established late in the year, spent only Rs. 511 of the contribution of Rs. 5,000 made by the Tippera District Board. Feni and Lakhipur were the only Unions which raised taxes under Section 118 of the Act. The Shahzadpur Union was abolished in February 1907, owing to inefficient administration.

Union
Commit-
tees.

225. General elections were held in the districts of Mymensingh and Bakarganj and a by-election in the district of Dacca. The elections were unsuccessful in the thanas of the Bakarganj district, owing to non-attendance of the prescribed number of voters and in one thana in Mymensingh. In all these cases the members were appointed by Government.

Elections.

In Assam no general elections were held, the Boards having been constituted towards the close of the previous year. By-elections were, however, held in seven Boards to fill up casual vacancies.

INCOME.

226. Excluding opening balances, the income of the Boards from all sources, Rs. 2,54,143, showed an increase of Rs. 5,91,866, but an increase of Rs. 7,83,720 occurred under the head "Debt." The larger receipts under "Debt" were due to the inclusion, for the first time, of the value of unpaid cheques, under the orders of the Government of India, communicated in Home Department Resolution No. 14-26, dated the 29th January 1907. It is interesting to note that about 52 per cent. of the total income was raised by local taxation, 6 per cent. was received from pounds, one per cent. from miscellaneous receipts, while nearly 29 per cent. was contributed by Government.

The variations in income under most heads are noticeable, but in some cases comparison is vitiated owing to the fact that the receipts and charges for 1906-1907 have been reclassified.

Provincial
rates.

227. The increase of Rs. 76,427 under "Provincial rates" was contributed mainly by the Assam Valley and Rajshahi Divisions and was due, in the former, to improved collections and, in the latter, to revaluations and collection of arrears.

Education.

228. Educational receipts showed a decline of Rs. 79,761, the bulk of which occurred in the Rajshahi and the Surma Valley Divisions. In the former the decrease was owing chiefly to the inclusion in the figures of 1905-1906 of the Imperial grants made for the development of Primary Education, and, in the latter, to the inclusion in the same year of Rs. 15,431 refunded by the Karinganji Local Board on account of overdrawals in 1904-1905. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions there was an increase of Rs. 12,609 and Rs. 6,058 respectively, due to larger contributions from private persons for school buildings.

Medical.

229. Under "Medical" there was an increase of Rs. 9,872, due to a handsome contribution of Rs. 10,000 by Babu Dharani Kanta Lahiri, zamindar, towards medical charity in the Mymensingh district.

Miscella-
neous.

230. The decrease of Rs. 14,282 under "Miscellaneous" was shared by all divisions except the Assam Valley. The decrease was partly due to the fact that in the Rajshahi Division a considerable income was derived in 1905-1906 from fines in connection with the revaluation of estates, and in the Surma Valley Division to the transfer of the Hailakandi Khas Bazar to the control of the municipal union.

Civil
Works.

231. Receipts under "Civil Works" were Rs. 2,18,656 less than in 1905-1906. The falling off is nominal, and was due to the inclusion under this head in 1905-1906 of the Imperial grants of Rs. 2,28,000, approximately, made to the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions for the improvement of communications. Excluding these grants, there was a net increase of Rs. 9,344, the increase being practically restricted to the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions. The increase in Rajshahi has not been explained; in Chittagong it was due to larger contributions to works of public utility made by private persons.

Contribu-
tions.

232. Contributions from Imperial and Provincial Funds showed an increase of Rs. 27,747, but this does not represent the facts, as certain contributions made to Boards in the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions were incorrectly credited in the accounts of 1905-1906 to "Civil Works." Making due allowance for these sums, the subventions made during 1906-1907 fell off by Rs. 1,69,000. This was not due to shortage of funds. A large portion of the Imperial grants for primary education in the Eastern Bengal districts was withheld, as the grants made for this purpose towards the close of 1905-1906 had not been utilized.

EXPENDITURE.

233. The aggregate expenditure, excluding "Debt," exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 4,65,344, and amounted to Rs. 44,43,955. The principal variations in expenditure are noted below.

General
Adminis-
tration.

234. Under "General Administration," the increase occurred solely in the Assam Boards, and was due to the apportionment of establishment charges between this head and "45 Civil Works," in lieu of the old system of debiting to the latter head alone.

Miscella-
neous.

235. The expenditure under "Miscellaneous" showed an increase of Rs. 15,221. Additional expenditure was incurred under this head in the Surma Valley, owing to improvements carried out in the Srimangal Bazar in South Sylhet, and to improved lighting arrangements at Karimganj and Maulvi Bazar. In the Rajshahi Division also, there was an increase in Malda, owing to the acquisition of private ferries by the Malda Board.

Postal
charges.

236. District Boards were relieved of a considerable charge of nearly Rs. 44,000 by the imperialization of all district post charges with effect from the 1st April 1906.

237. A new item of expenditure was, however, incurred under "Famine relief." Of the total expenditure of Rs. 16,424 under "Famine relief," the major portion was spent by Bakurjanj on test works, while Rs. 2,000 was incurred by Faridpur for gratuitous relief.

238. There was a decrease of Rs. 18,704 under "Contributions," owing partly to the non-payment by the Boards in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions of certain audit charges, for which no demand was made before the close of the year. In the Rajshahi Division also, there was a decrease of Rs. 7,921, but the cause is not explained in the divisional report. Contributions.

239. The increase under the head "Debt" was due to the change of system introduced under the orders of the Government of India, to which reference has already been made. Debt.

240. The total expenditure on education increased from Rs. 10,94,698 to Rs. 12,11,212, the increase being shared by all divisions except the Surma Valley, where there was a decrease of Rs. 19,264, owing to smaller expenditure on the construction of school buildings. In the Rajshahi Division, where special efforts appear to have been made, the expenditure increased by Rs. 59,000. In Eastern Bengal Rs. 2,49,432, or 33 per cent. of the total expenditure, was spent on lower primary education, while, in Assam, Rs. 3,49,929, or 78 per cent. of the total expenditure, was allotted to this object. In Eastern Bengal only 1·8 per cent. of the total expenditure on lower primary education was allotted to buildings and apparatus, while in the Assam districts the percentage reached 19. The District Boards in Eastern Bengal failed to utilise the grants from Imperial Funds placed at their disposal for the extension of primary education. In 1905-1906 a grant of Rs. 2,57,000 was made at the close of the year, but no expenditure could be incurred. No grant was made in 1906-1907, and only Rs. 1,10,000 was expended from the grant of the preceding year. For the current year a grant of Rs. 1,70,000 has been made, but, as the annual Imperial grant amounts to Rs. 3,33,000, it is clear that a great deal remains to be done before the grants are absorbed in recurring expenditure. In the Assam districts the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,00,000 is practically fully utilised. District Boards in Eastern Bengal may under their constitution make grants to all schools under public management, as well as to primary schools under private management. But it is noticeable that many District Boards in Eastern Bengal assist with funds *Tols* and *Madrasahs* under private control. Education.

The number of lower primary schools in Eastern Bengal maintained and aided rose from 11,661 to 12,020 and in Assam from 2,488 to 2,611.

The question of provincialising the staff of Sub-Inspectors in Eastern Bengal has not as yet been settled, and inspection charges continue to form a large percentage of the educational expenditure in that portion of the province. In Assam the cost of the inspecting staff is met entirely from Provincial revenues.

Technical education received inadequate attention from the Boards. Technical schools were maintained at Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Pabna, and there is an Artizan school at Comilla which does useful work. The Barisal Technical School, which was amalgamated with the zillah school in 1901-1902, was restored to the management of the District Board during the year. The Sericultural Department of the Diamond Jubilee Industrial School at Rampur-Boalia in Rajshahi has been taken over by Government, and a sub-overseer's class, with a smith's shop attached, has been started in its place by the Rajshahi District Board.

241. The total expenditure under "Medical" increased from Rs. 2,73,538 to Rs. 3,11,622. The increase was common to all divisions and was largest in the Dacca Division, where it amounted to Rs. 16,458. The outlay on Hospitals and Dispensaries in Eastern Bengal rose from Rs. 1,45,157 to Rs. 1,70,142 and on Sanitation and Vaccination from Rs. 3,288 to Rs. 7,280. In the Assam Boards the total expenditure on Medical also showed an increase, due to outlay on buildings and to increased expenditure on preventive measures against the spread of cholera. With effect from April 1907, vaccination charges in Assam have been reduced, as the inspecting staff now forms part of a Provincial service, the cost being met from Provincial revenues. Medical.

No addition was apparently made during the year to the number of dispensaries maintained by Boards, but the cost of maintenance increased from Rs. 1,13,967 to Rs. 1,30,904. One hundred and sixty-three dispensaries were aided at a cost of Rs. 1,24,473; compared with 162 at a cost of Rs. 1,15,587 in the year preceding. A number of Boards (Mymensingh, Tippera, Rangpur, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Karimganj, and Silchar) entertained itinerant doctors to provide medical relief in localities affected by cholera, while effective measures were taken by other Boards (Chittagong, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Goalpara, Gauhati, Barpeta and Mangaldai) to give

PROTEC-
TION.

medical relief by sending out their Hospital Assistants and compounders to the mufassil during the outbreak of epidemics. In Mymensingh, the two *hât* dispensaries were reported to have worked well, but the floating dispensary at Faridpur, which proved a failure, was closed. The services of midwives and lady doctors were entertained by several Boards. The Mymensingh Board sent a Muhammadan lady, to whom a scholarship was granted, to the Dacca Medical School, for the purpose of being trained as a Hospital Assistant.

Sanitation.

242. The expenditure for sanitary purposes increased from Rs. 5,056 to Rs. 10,731. But these figures do not include expenditure incurred on the improvement of water supply or drainage. The general increase was shared by all divisions except Chittagong, which for the last two years has shown no expenditure under this head. A scheme for improving the sanitation of Manikganj on the lines adopted in Patna was in progress during the year. A number of ditches, holes and depressions were filled in, and it is reported that the town was to a great extent free from malaria. In Mymensingh the Patna system was also tried in two unhealthy villages, and a *khal* was excavated to let in flood water into the nearest *bhil*.

A Health Officer was appointed by the Dinajpur Board to look after the sanitation of the Raiganj town, while the Bogra Board prepared detailed plans and estimates for clearing the channels of the Karatoya and Nagora. The Jorhat Board spent Rs. 227 towards improving the sanitation of a populous village by opening passages through jungle and bamboo growth for ventilation. Generally speaking, sanitary measures were restricted to preventive measures against cholera and other epidemic diseases, clearance of jungle, excavation of tanks, and the care of sanitary details at fairs and *melas*.

Public
Works.

243. The total allotment for Public Works amounted to Rs. 31,90,750, and the expenditure to Rs. 26,38,065, against Rs. 31,76,906, and Rs. 23,23,633 respectively in 1905-06. The lapse was 17·3 per cent., as against nearly 27 per cent. in the previous year. The results of the year, though better than those of 1905-1906, cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory. The termination of the financial year in the middle of the working season is no doubt responsible for the heavy lapses which occur, but this should be provided for by more accurate budgetting.

The large expenditure on feeder roads was a satisfactory feature in the year's working.

Water -
supply and
water
works.

244. The total expenditure in Eastern Bengal amounted to Rs. 64,832, of which Rs. 50,629 was spent on original works and Rs. 14,023 on repairs. The corresponding figures for the Assam Boards are not available, but the divisional reports show that increased expenditure, chiefly on original works, was incurred. The expenditure incurred by the District Boards of the Chittagong Division was exceedingly low, only Rs. 2,909 having been spent, against Rs. 6,912 in the previous year. Chittagong district incurred no expenditure under this head. The reports from Chittagong and Tippera imply that some of the rural areas are badly in need of good drinking water, and the failure to meet this want is ascribed to the unwillingness of the villages to contribute to any scheme. The Boards of the Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions increased their expenditure by Rs. 8,980 and Rs. 2,089 respectively, mostly on the excavation of tanks and wells. Local Boards in Assam, with the exception of Silchar, made good progress in this direction. The Sunamganj Board undertook the construction of nine new tanks as relief works.

An offer was made during the year by Government to contribute one-third of the cost of all works for the improvement of the village water-supply, on condition that one-third should be contributed by the villagers, while the remaining one-third should be contributed by the local bodies. The offer met with a ready response in some districts. Of a sum of Rs. 20,000 placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board during the year, Rs. 17,586 was placed at the disposal of those Boards which accepted the conditions imposed by Government.

Drainage.

245. No drainage work of importance was undertaken by any Board. The Tippera Board spent Rs. 4,368 in re-excavating 12 *khals*, and the Pabna Board completed the land acquisition operations in connection with the Cheroil *bil*. The Ranganadi embankment in North Lakshmipur was completed, but the work has not proved a success.

Veterinary.

246. Veterinary charges in Eastern Bengal showed a small decrease from Rs. 11,381 to Rs. 11,238, the expenditure being incurred on the maintenance of veterinary dispensaries, on the entertainment of veterinary officers, and on veterinary scholarships. All Boards in Eastern Bengal incurred expenditure under this head, except Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, and Pabna. The last, however, maintained three bulls for improving the breed of cattle, while in Rangpur a veterinary hospital was constructed. In the

Surma Valley a beginning was made towards the provision of veterinary aid. The Boards have agreed to subscribe towards the staff maintained by the Tea Association, the North Sylhet Local Board having contributed Rs. 1,000 before the close of the year. This Board and the Boards at Habiganj and Hailakandi have employed their own Veterinary Assistants since the close of the year. The Sibsagar, Golaghat, and Jorhat Boards continued to entertain a Veterinary Assistant jointly. Scholarships at Belgachia were provided by all the Boards of the Dacca Division, and Tippera increased the number of scholarships to two and their value to Rs. 12 a month. Veterinary officers were employed by the District Boards of Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong.

247. The actual closing balances of the Boards (excluding deposits and the value of uncashed cheques issued during the year) amounted to Rs. 14,78,950 against Rs. 16,64,124 at the end of 1905-1906, a decrease of Rs. 1,85,174. The tendency to allow excessive surpluses to accumulate was commented on in the Government Resolution on the administration of Boards in 1905-1906. The reduction is satisfactory, but many Boards, especially in the Dacca and Assam Valley Divisions, failed during the year to work up to the sanctioned programme.

248. No loans were taken by any Boards during the year. Rangpur (Rs. 65,769) and Dinajpur (Rs. 90,632) are the only Boards with outstanding loans.

249. The Malda District Board opened a weaving school at the Sadr station at a cost of Rs. 769. The school is maintained partly by Government. In Dacca, a temporary class was held for six months to teach the use of the fly-shuttle looms, but the result was not satisfactory. The weaving class attached to the Kasi Kishore Technical School in Mymensingh failed to attract any pupils during the latter half of the year, and it has been decided to transfer it to Bazitpur, where there are many weavers. The Elliott Artizan School at Tippera continued to do good work. A sum of Rs. 200 was paid by the Faridpur Board to the Secretary, Faridpur Agricultural Exhibition, in order to encourage the fly-shuttle loom. Nothing was done by other District Boards in this direction. In the Assam districts the only indication of interest shown is the decision of the Jorhat Board to hold an industrial exhibition, and of the North Sylhet Local Board to hold a cattle show in January 1908. The Sylhet Local Board contemplate providing instruction in weaving, but regular schemes have not yet been framed.

SECTION 10.—Military and Volunteering.

250. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during the year 1906-1907 :—

- I. Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles.
- II. Assam Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles.
- III. Surma Valley Light Horse.
- IV. Assam Valley Light Horse.

The total number of volunteers was:—officers 95; rank and file 1,327; and reservists 175. These were made up as follows:—

	Officers.	Rank and file.	Reservists.
1	2	3	4
Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles ...	8	321	48
Eastern Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles ..	20	374	6
Surma Valley Light Horse ...	31	280	12
Assam Valley Light Horse ...	36	352	109
Total ...	95	1,327	175

251. The headquarter wing 62nd Punjabis relieved the wing 3rd Brahmans on 9th October 1906 at Dibrugarh.

252. Colonel J. G. Harwood, B.A.M.C., was the Principal Medical Officer during the year.

MARINE.

SECTION II.—The Port of Chittagong.

[See Resolution on the Administration Report of the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong for the year 1906-1907; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section XXXII].

Financial.

253. The income of the ordinary Port Fund for the year 1906-1907 amounted to Rs. 1,89,543, showing an increase of 49 per cent. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,07,293 against Rs. 74,968 in the previous year.

Improve-
ments to
the Port.

254. A length of about 5,700 feet on the right bank of the river below the railway terminal jetties has been revetted, and it has been decided to extend the revetment on this bank to a distance of about $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles in all. The total cost of the revetment has been estimated at some 24 lakhs of rupees, but it will probably exceed that amount. As Provincial Funds can no longer afford the whole cost of the revetment after the 31st March 1907, it has been arranged that the Port Commissioners will provide for one half of the cost by a loan taken at 4 per cent. interest from Government, the balance, up to a limit of Rs. 9,00,000, being provided by Government from Provincial Funds.

The dredger sanctioned by the Government of India in 1905 reached Chittagong on 5th March 1907, and its work has proved satisfactory.

Shipping.

255. Three hundred and forty-one vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 4,36,477 were berthed during the year at the Port against 337 vessels with a tonnage of 3,26,725. The increase in tonnage was nearly 34 per cent.

Trade.

256. The value of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade rose from 468.54 lakhs of rupees to Rs. 861.02 lakhs. The increase in the import coasting trade was largely due to the large importation of rice from Burma which the scarcity in Eastern Bengal and Assam necessitated, while the increase in the export coasting trade was chiefly in treasure which was sent to Burma to pay for the rice imported.

Port ap-
pliances.

257. The appliances of the Port and Light Houses were kept in good order throughout the year. Leading lights over the outer and inner bars were erected during the year to enable vessels to enter the Port at night. The Light Vessel "Sarsuti" was placed on her station at the South Patches Shoal, 40 miles below the entrance of the river Karnaphuli, on the 15th August 1906.

Pilotage
Fund.

258. The Pilotage Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 78,650, and the receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 26,323. Of this total, Rs. 62,056 was spent.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

(See Report of the Agricultural Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year 1906-1907.)

259. The proposals for the re-organization of the Department embodied in a memorandum drawn up by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, to which reference was made in last year's report, were generally approved by the Government of India. An Economic Botanist and an Agricultural Chemist have been sanctioned for this province and the latter of these officers has already taken over his duties while the former is expected from England soon. A separate Director of Agriculture has been appointed to superintend the increasing work of the Department. The Central Farm at Dacca will be the headquarters of the expert staff, and buildings for the accommodation of these officers and their subordinates are under construction.

Re-organization of the Department.

260. Towards the close of the year a number of un-official correspondents were appointed all over the province. They have agreed to send regularly reports on all matters affecting crops. In return, they will be supplied with all information likely to be useful to the agriculturists of their neighbourhood. Some of them have also been selected as Associates of the Department. It is largely through these honorary correspondents and Agricultural Associates that the Department hopes to disseminate useful agricultural knowledge and to receive timely information of all pests, blights and other calamities affecting crops, with a view to taking such steps as may be possible towards devising remedies.

Honorary Assistants.

261. The important subject of the extension of the cultivation of jute to areas suited to it received considerable attention during the year. Experiments in connection with it were made at the Rajshahi and Jorhat Experimental Stations under the direction of Mr. Finlow, the fibre expert employed by this Government, and along the railway line by the authorities of the Assam Bengal Railway. At the same time good jute seed was widely distributed and the services of cultivators of that crop were lent to selected planters in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts to assist their tenants in its production. These experiments were sufficiently successful to justify the belief that, with experience and care, jute can be grown anywhere in Upper Assam, unless weather conditions are specially unfavourable. It is satisfactory to note that the cultivation of the crop is rapidly increasing in the Brahmaputra Valley and that the number of raiyats who come every year from Eastern Bengal to take up land for the purpose in the districts of Goalpara, Darrang and Nowgong is continually increasing. Two jute farms under European management have been opened in Kamrup, and experiments are also being made by European planters in Cachar and all other tea districts of Assam.

Scientific experiments.

It is to be regretted that the experiments made during the year to introduce caravonica cotton failed everywhere except at Nowgong and at a village, called Dhap, in Rangpur. With a view to ascertain whether an improved variety of cotton can be raised on the low hills bordering Hill Tippera, experiments were started at a private farm, situated on the hilly land close to the Hill Tippera frontier of Sylhet, with the following varieties of cotton:—

- (1) Dharwar American.
- (2) Buri Kapas.
- (3) King's Improved (American).
- (4) Caravonica (three kinds).
- (5) Spence cotton.

These experiments promise to be successful.

Experiments with wheat, with a view to introduce the cultivation of this crop into the Assam Valley, have been made annually since 1903-04. Some of them have been attended with a fair measure of success, and others have failed. Arrangements were made for the conduct of a limited number of experiments during the last cold weather in Kamrup, Darrang and Sibsagar, but the unfavourable results obtained and the fact that previous experiments have led to no appreciable extension of wheat cultivation in the localities where the experiments were made seem to indicate that wheat has no chance of becoming a staple crop in the plains of Assam. The climate is too humid, and there is usually too much rain in March and April, which spoils the crop at the time of ripening or when it is about to be reaped.

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBU-
TION.
—
Agricul-
tural
Stations.

262. The operations in the agricultural stations in the province have been dealt with, in accordance with existing orders, in separate reports which have already been published. Land was acquired for the Central Farm at Dacca and part of the area was reclaimed from jungle. The existing Rangpur station having been pronounced unsuitable for tobacco research, a site for a new tobacco station at Burirhat was selected and steps were taken for the acquisition of the land. The present Rangpur Farm will be retained up to the end of July 1908, after which it will be handed over to the Rangpur Agricultural Association. The best results obtained in the Rajshahi Agricultural station were with Dacca *ganderi* sugarcane which gave a splendid outturn. There is now a great demand for sets from the surrounding cultivators. Though the Jorhat Agricultural station is intended to be mainly a sugarcane station, none of the varieties yielded as well as the *ganderi* on the Rajshahi Farm. The two Upper Shillong Farms are devoted mainly to market gardening experiments. During the year proof was given of the large profits which can be made from the cultivation of straw-berries, lemon-grass, rhubarb, asparagus and a variety of squash imported from Madras.

Sericult-
ture.

263. In Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra, which are the important silk-producing districts of Eastern Bengal, the Bengal Silk Committee continued to do useful work in popularising the use of healthy seed, extending mulberry plantations, and starting model rearing-houses. The advantage of Pasteur's system of examining silkworm moths is now appreciated. The experiments in the rearing of the European univoltine silkworm were repeated at the Fruit Garden, Upper Shillong, last spring and proved as successful as in the previous three years. But until sericulture is taken up in the Khasi Hills as a separate industry and on a larger scale, the profits obtainable cannot be definitely ascertained. The whole subject of the revival of the silk industry in this province is under the consideration of Government. The remedial measures proposed are based on the recommendations of a committee appointed in Bengal to consider the causes of the decline of the industry and to formulate proposals for its restoration.

Agricul-
tural Educa-
tion.

264. Three students were sent in January 1907, at the cost of Government, to study agriculture at the Poona College of Science. They will go through a three years' course in that institution, to be followed by a two years' post graduate course at the Agricultural College at Pusa. Three more students will be sent to Poona during the ensuing season.

The Sericultural School at Rajshahi, which previously formed a branch of the Rajshahi Diamond Jubilee Industrial School, was detached, reorganised, and made a separate institution with effect from the 1st January 1907. Government has undertaken the entire support of the school, and the expenditure in connection with it will be defrayed from the budget of the Agricultural Department.

It is to be regretted that the students who received instruction at Government expense in fly-shuttle weaving at Chinsurah during 1904-1905 and 1905-1906 are making no practical use of their training except one who, it is understood, has set up two looms in a village in the Karimganj subdivision. The weaving institution started by private enterprise in the town of Sylhet, to which a monthly grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 was sanctioned from 1st May 1906, ceased to exist from December last.

Agricul-
tural Asso-
ciations.

265. There are Divisional Agricultural Associations at Chittagong and Rajshahi, and District Associations at Rangpur, Malda and Bogra. The Rajshahi Divisional Association is reported to have done practically nothing since its constitution. The Malda District Association has now ceased to exist. The rest appear to have done some useful work. Better results may, however, be expected to be achieved by the individual work of the Associates of the Department than by these associations.

SECTION 2.—Weather and Crops.

[See Report on the Season and Crops of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907; Agricultural statistics of India, Volume I].

Character
of the Sea-
son.

266. From an agricultural point of view, the year, though better than its predecessor, was not a satisfactory one. The rainfall, which was above the normal, was badly distributed. There was an unusually heavy fall in the months of July and August followed everywhere by abnormal floods, which caused considerable damage to the early rice and jute crops and retarded the transplantation of *aman* or winter rice. To this succeeded a very dry cold weather which had an unfavourable effect on the crops of that season; so that on the whole the outturn of food crops of the year was below the average. To rice the weather was unfavourable, except in Cachar and in some parts of the Assam Valley and the Rajshahi Divisions. The jute crop is reported to have been up to the average

in quantity in most parts of the Dacca Division, and was not far below it elsewhere. But the cutting of the crop was delayed by the floods which affected the quality of the fibre. Owing, however, to keen demand, prices ruled unprecedentedly high, and made up to the cultivators in the jute districts their losses on other crops. As a result of the high price, the cultivation of this fibre is now rapidly extending in the Assam Valley in Noakhali and in the Western Duars. Among minor crops sugarcane seems to have done well. Mustard and *matikalai* suffered from the deficiency of rain in the winter and the mango crop in Malda is said to have been damaged by hail storms.

267. No accurate information can be obtained from Eastern Bengal districts as to the area under cultivation each year. The Collectors of the following districts estimate that large increases have occurred in the net cropped area, *viz.*, Bogra (41,700 acres), Jalpaiguri (3,000 acres), Pabna (17,000 acres), Noakhali (9,000 acres), Dinajpur (41,700 acres), and Faridpur (41,000 acres). The increase in the first three districts occurred entirely at the expense of current fallows, while the entire increase in Noakhali and Dinajpur and part of the increase in Faridpur represent land which was previously culturable waste, and indicates a real expansion of cultivated area. There was a decrease in the area under crops in Bakarganj, Sylhet and Goalpara.

The decrease (431,900 acres) in Bakarganj is due to the fact that in previous years the figures given were only estimates based on general information. With the completion of the cadastral survey they have been replaced this year by figures based on actual measurement. The permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara also have no field records; the apparent decrease in those districts is due to the rectification of certain obviously incorrect items in the estimates of previous years.

268. The total areas under various crops vary in several cases considerably from those given in the forecasts published during the year.

The area under winter rice was estimated in the forecast as approximately twelve and a quarter million acres; the statements now compiled reduce the area to 12,000,000 acres. In Bakarganj district alone the substitution of figures based on measurement for the general estimate on which the forecast was based showed that the latter erred in excess by some 247,000 acres. If the crop areas of other Eastern Bengal districts could be ascertained by survey, it is probable that they would also differ not less widely from the present accepted estimates. In Assam districts field records are kept up to date, but winter rice forecasts were not issued before 1906-1907 and consequently large mistakes occurred. The forecasts of Darrang and Cachar overestimated the area under the crop by 27,000 and 12,000 acres, respectively, while in the Garo Hills and Kamrup there were underestimates of 4,000 and 40,000 acres.

The area under autumn rice (*aus* or *ahu*) was estimated in the forecast at 3,629,600 acres, while the revised area is 3,481,825 acres. The principal corrections made are in Bakarganj where the forecast gave an overestimate of no less than 197,341 acres, and in Kamrup, Goalpara, Lakhimpur, and Garo Hills, where it was found that there were 28,400, 11,400, 9,000, and 1,000 acres, respectively, more than was shown in the final forecast.

Further enquiries with regard to jute have led to the conclusion that in 1906-1907 there were probably 108,000 acres more under the crop than was estimated at the time of the final forecast of that area. The discrepancy is due to a revision of areas in Dacca and Bakarganj, and to the omission from the previous forecast of the 8,000 acres under jute in Assam.

269. There is no irrigation by Government canals in this province. Fortunately, in most parts there is no need for irrigation except for certain *rabi* crops, such as tobacco, summer rice, and potatoes, and even they are very frequently grown without irrigation. The tracts requiring irrigation are those lying at the foot of the Himalayas and the belts of old alluvium, which are generally more high and dry than the new alluvium. No statistics of irrigated area have ever been framed except for Kamrup and small portions of Rajshahi and Rangpur districts; but it is known that there are considerable areas irrigated in Darrang, Goalpara, and in most parts of Rajshahi division. All such irrigation is generally effected with the aid of natural water-courses, sometimes supplemented by artificial channels, which have been excavated either by local authorities, by cultivators co-operating together, or by private individuals. To a small extent also irrigation from tanks is practised in the cold weather.

270. The summer, autumn, and winter rice crops were 85, 62 and 80 per cent., respectively, of the normal, and the total rice production of the province was 6,294,629 tons or 171,353,792 maunds.

SECTION 3.—Forests.

[See Progress Report of Forest Administration in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907.]

Alterations
in the re-
served
area.

271. The area of the reserves increased by 217 square miles, and now stands at 6,250 square miles, or 6·3 per cent. of the area of the whole province. Reservations aggregating 220 square miles were effected in the Chittagong, Cachar, and Nowgong divisions, the adoption of forest survey figures added 27·4 square miles, while an area of one square mile was disforested in Jalpaiguri and thrown open for ordinary cultivation. Some progress has been made in the disposal of pending settlement cases. Three areas were finally reserved during the year, five have been reserved since the close of the year, but six areas still remain under settlement since 1905-1906. In the Resolution on the report for that year the undesirability of permitting these cases to drag on indefinitely was referred to. The progress reported is satisfactory, but an attempt should be made to dispose of the pending cases with as little delay as possible.

Protection
and forest
offences.

272. The number of cases brought into court increased, and the percentage of acquittals was again excessive. In the Chittagong and Sylhet divisions alone no less than 141 cases, chiefly of a petty nature, involving 769 persons were tried and 20 cases involving 198 persons resulted in acquittals. These are very unsatisfactory figures. An inquiry into the excessive number of cases brought into court and the large percentage of acquittals is being held.

Fire protective operations are reported to have been very successful, and an increased area was protected at a reduced cost. It is gratifying to find that the reduction in the cost per square mile was due to more work having been done in exchange for forest produce.

Working
plans.

273. With so large an area not under systematic management, one of the most pressing items of work is the preparation of working plans. Substantial progress was made during the year in this direction. Plans were prepared or sanctioned for small areas (5 square miles) in Darrang, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, while the field work in connection with the plans for the important *sdl* forests of Goalpara was completed. Preliminary reports on the preparations of working plan for 288 square miles in Kamrup and Nowgong has been received, and a beginning has been made in Lakhimpur and Cachar by the divisional officers towards collecting materials. Looking to the weakness of the staff of Imperial officers, this is a very creditable record of work.

Communica-
tion and
buildings.

274. An addition of one mile was made to the Goalpara tramway, bringing up its total length to 10½ miles. A further extension of 3½ miles was sanctioned, but owing to want of labour little progress was made. The work done by the tramway fully justifies the expenditure incurred. The development of traffic in forest produce by the improvement of communications received considerable attention during the year, but, owing to insufficient knowledge of the forests, little progress was made in drawing up a comprehensive scheme.

The total expenditure on roads and buildings was Rs. 69,653, against Rs. 50,958 in 1905-1906, and against an average of Rs. 43,649 for the previous five years. In Assam expenditure more than doubled. Such expenditure is of the nature of expenditure on productive works, and the outlay will be recovered many times over in the near future.

Rubber
planta-
tions.

275. There was a serious fall in the revenue demand from the Charduar rubber plantations owing to a strike among tappers which lasted for some weeks. The plantation contains 2,754 acres of *ficus elastica* and nurseries to permit of large extensions are maintained. During the year 679 plants were put out to fill up vacancies, 223 miles of inspection paths and 233 miles of rubber and block lines were cleared. The question of the disposal of the plantations is still under consideration.

Major Cole, the Superintendent, Lushai Hills, is endeavouring, with apparently every prospect of success, to introduce the cultivation of *ficus elastica* into his district. Five Lushais were sent to Charduar for a practical course of instruction and are now teaching the Lushais. Over 60 seed beds have been prepared. This experiment will be watched with interest. The possibility of cultivating *Hevea Brasiliensis* in these hills might well be considered.

Forest vill-
ages.

276. Eight new forest villages were established during the year and one was closed. There are now 106 forest villages in the circle, and, although in Cachar, Darrang, and Jalpaiguri labour troubles were experienced, the Conservator reports that colonization is generally proving a success where sufficient care has been taken to admit the right class of settlers.

277. The greatest difficulty under which the Department labours is the insufficiency of its staff. A scheme has been submitted for the re-organization of the Provincial and Subordinate establishments, but efficient administration cannot be hoped for until the staff of Imperial officers is strengthened.

The reserves of the province are properties of almost incalculable future value and the time cannot be far distant when they will be called upon to meet demands from outside which cannot be met elsewhere. It is all the more necessary, therefore, that no time should be lost in developing these properties in the matter of reproduction and scientific management as well as in the development of communications to facilitate the extraction of forest produce.

278. Information under this head will be found in Chapter V.—“Revenue and Finance”.

Financial results.

SECTION 4.—Manufactures and Mines.

[See Report on Tea Culture in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Sections XXVI and XXVII; Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

279. The only manufacture of importance in the province is that of tea. There were at the close of the year 930 gardens in all, 281 in the Surma Valley, 439 in the Assam Valley, 185 in Jalpaiguri, and 25 in Chittagong. During the year 13 gardens were amalgamated with other gardens, and one new garden was opened.

Tea gardens opened and closed.

280. The total area leased by planters was 13,38,753 acres, of which 4,23,828 were under tea. Of the area actually under cultivation, 4,07,277 acres are owned by Europeans and 16,551 by Indians. The area of land newly planted was 6,280 acres and that of cultivation abandoned 9,940 acres.

Area under cultivation.

281. The total outturn of tea for the province amounted to 20,76,70,288 lbs. In the Brahmaputra Valley the yield increased from 87,494,884 lbs. to 96,478,490 lbs., and, in the Surma Valley, from 65,281,934 lbs. to 66,585,473 lbs. In Eastern Bengal the total outturn was 44,606,325 lbs.

Outturn of tea.

282. Seven hundred and thirty-three maunds of tea seeds were exported from the Brahmaputra Valley and 133 maunds from the Surma Valley. No tea seed was imported into the province during the year.

Export and import of tea seeds.

283. The average prices of tea obtained per pound in Calcutta and London, as furnished by the Secretary to the Indian Tea Association, are given below:—

Prices.

1906.	Brahmaputra Valley.		Surma Valley.		Jalpaiguri.		Chittagong.	
	Number of Packages.	Price per pound.	Number of Packages.	Price per pound.	Number of Packages.	Price per pound.	Number of Packages.	Price per pound.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
London sale	680,606	Rs. a. p. 8½d.	304,228	Rs. a. p. 5½d.	223,828	Rs. a. p. 6½d.	5,511	Rs. a. p. ...
Calcutta sale	167,066	0 6 6	262,983	0 4 1	185,694	0 5 5	12,061	0 4 2

The prices for teas from the Brahmaputra Valley and Jalpaiguri showed an increase of one farthing, while those of the Surma Valley showed a decrease of one farthing and of Chittagong of a half-penny. The average price for London sales for the Brahmaputra Valley was 9½d. compared with 8½d. in 1905, and for the Surma Valley was 6½d. and 5½d. respectively.

284. The prospects of the industry may be described as hopeful. It is reported, however, that expansion is checked by the short supply of labour. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division remarks: “The year was on the whole a prosperous one for the tea industry, the yield being generally good, while prices rose in consequence of increased demand, especially for ‘outside’ markets. The prospects of the industry would be good if it were not for the labour difficulty, which promises to become more acute in the near future.”

Condition of the industry.

285. The receipts from royalty on coal amounted to Rs. 41,107, of which Rs. 40,107 were realized in Lakhimpur and the rest in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The total output from the four mines in the former district was 2,85,402 tons, and that from the Maolong mines in the latter was 65 tons.

Coal.

286. The revenue from mineral oil increased from Rs. 13,550 (including arrears) to Rs. 19,919. This is satisfactory as indicating a gradual development of the mineral resources of the province. The total quantity of petroleum extracted was 28,97,990 gallons, against 27,33,110 gallons in the preceding year.

Mineral oil.

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.
Lime.

237. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills is the only district in the province in which revenue is derived from limestone. Some of the quarries are owned by the Siems or by people of semi-independent states, who, under treaty rights, receive one-half of the revenue. The total revenue from lime-quarries amounted during the year to Rs. 12,116

SECTION 5.—Factories.

[See Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Eastern Bengal and Assam during 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIX.]

Number of
factories.

288. At the close of the year there were 99 factories in the province—15 in Assam and 84 in the Eastern Bengal districts. The factories in the Assam districts showed an increase of three, owing to the opening of two new saw-mills, one in the Sibsagar district and one in Sylhet, and of a railway workshop in Sibsagar. The number in Eastern Bengal increased from 70 to 84. The increase of 14 is thus made up. In the Rajshahi division 10 new factories were brought under the Act and six were removed from the list. In the Dacca division 13 factories were brought under the Act, and 11 were removed from the list. Excluding four factories, which were open for only a part of the year, and from which no returns were received, the net result for the division was a decrease of two. In the Chittagong division 12 jute factories in the Tippera district were brought under the operation of the Act. The average daily number of operatives employed was 18,002 against 13,192 in the preceding year.

Inspections.

289. Thirty-nine factories were inspected once, 53 twice, 2 thrice, and 3 more than three times each. Six factories received no visits from inspecting officers. The Special Inspector of Factories inspected the Railway workshop at Saidpur, and the Chief Inspector of Explosives inspected the Burma Oil Company's tinning factory at Moheskhali in Chittagong. All other inspections were made by Medical Officers or by District Magistrates. The suggestions of the inspecting officers appear to have been generally followed, but in the case of a jute press in the Dinajpur district, where many of the operatives were found to be suffering from scurvy, it became necessary to warn the Head office in Calcutta of the liability of the Company under section 15 of the Factories Act, before they could be induced to carry out the improvements recommended by the Inspector.

Sanitary
arrange-
ments.

290. Sanitary arrangements were generally good, and there was no overcrowding in any factory. Defects were brought to notice in the case of three factories, and action was taken to remedy them.

General
health of
the opera-
tives.

291. The general health of the operatives is reported to have been, on the whole good. Statistics of mortality are not generally maintained. Thirty-nine deaths were, however, registered in Assam against 45 in 1905, all in the Lakhimpur district, and two deaths from cholera; against 12 in the preceding year, were reported from the Eastern Bengal districts, both having occurred in a factory at Sirajganj in the Pabna district.

Employ-
ment of
women and
children.

292. Women and children were employed on light labour. During the year there was a marked diminution in the percentage of children employed, the ratio, which in 1905 was 4·8 per cent. of the total labour force, having fallen to 3·9 per cent. The instructions of the Government of India communicated in Home Department letter No. 644-653, dated the 26th January 1906, regarding the employment of children in factories were circulated to all Civil Surgeons, but, with one exception, the reports do not indicate what effect has been given to the orders. The Collector of the Dacca district reports that children were provided with certificates under section 5 of the Act. The attention of other inspecting officers will be drawn to the matter.

Fencing of
machinery
and mill
gearing.

293. The machinery in all factories is reported to have been securely fenced and the provisions of the law observed, except in the case of the Surma Valley saw-mills, in regard to which the Civil Surgeon reported that the machinery was necessarily open.

Accidents.

294. There were 21 accidents during the year, of which one was fatal, 13 were serious and 7 were of a minor character. The solitary fatal case was that of a coolie of the Chittagong Jute Company who was drowned while crossing the wooden bridge connecting the Company's factory with the coolie lines.

Prosecu-
tions.

295. No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

TRADE.

SECTION 6.—Sea-borne trade.

[See Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

296. The total value of the sea-borne trade rose during the year to Rs. 861·02 lakhs (= £5 740,125), yielding an increase of Rs. 392·48 lakhs, or 83·8 per cent. This trade was almost equally divided between the foreign or non-Indian (49·8 per cent.) and the coasting (50·2 per cent.) trade. The foreign trade has increased in value by Rs. 111·12 lakhs, or 35·0 per cent., and the coasting trade by Rs. 281·37 lakhs, or 187·1 per cent. The great increase in the coasting trade, which was the main feature of the year, was due to large importations of rice from Burma on account of the scarcity in this province. There were also considerable exports of treasure (silver) to Burma to pay for the rice. There should have been a greater increase in the foreign export trade, but several large steamers, for which full cargoes were offering, had to be diverted from Chittagong to Calcutta for want of jetty accommodation. The export trade was considerably handicapped also by the insufficiency of railway wagons. The Assam-Bengal Railway Company, to whom the railway terminal jetties at present belong, have guaranteed the *Clan* line of steamers, the use of one jetty berth, but these steamers bring few imports as they do not often come from the United Kingdom direct. With the completion of the third jetty, which is expected shortly, the Railway Company propose, if possible, to arrange with another line of steamers to bring imports from London direct. When this is arranged a considerable portion of the foreign import cargo for this province, which is at present carried to Calcutta, should come straight to Chittagong. In November 1906, a fire occurred at the railway jetties which damaged the sheds attached to one jetty and rendered them unfit for use for the remaining portion of the year. This unfortunate accident retarded the exports of jute and tea abroad. The exports of half-pressed jute bales to Calcutta for the Hooghly mills, which formed a feature of the trade of 1905-1906, was stopped early in the season of 1906-1907, as satisfactory arrangements could not be made for loading them here or unloading them in Calcutta. The trade of the port of Chittagong is at present limited by the railway and navigational facilities provided. With the increase of these facilities the trade will no doubt develop very rapidly.

SECTION 7.—Foreign trade.—Imports.

[See Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

297. The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported into Chittagong from foreign countries :—

				1905-1906.	1906-1907.
				Rs.	Rs.
Railway materials	...	...	...	9,71,739	11,64,168
Iron	...	...	...	6,06,460	7,98,075
Cotton piece-goods	...	...	...	2,85,532	3,99,887
Tea chests	...	...	...	2,41,238	3,67,577
Salt	...	...	...	3,31,745	3,10,338
Tin	...	...	...	6,017	1,30,738
Machinery and mill work	...	...	...	1,14,247	1,00,191
Steel	...	...	...	62,773	98,539
Hardware and cutlery	...	...	...	92,371	77,970
Lead	...	...	...	80,849	64,582
Provisions	...	...	...	15,959	26,305
Wood and manufacture of wood	...	...	...	55	21,180
Liquors	...	...	...	14,689	12,963
Chemical and drugs	...	...	...	11,908	8,327
Apparel	...	...	...	1,769	7,709
Spices	...	...	...	2,633	5,548
Oils	...	...	...	4,645	3,125
Sugar	...	...	...	6,975	1,855
All other articles	...	...	...	1,56,360	1,90,911
Total merchandise	...	...	...	30,07,944	37,89,988
<i>Treasure.</i>					
Gold	...	...	...	...	28,195
Silver	...	...	...	...	47,399
Total of treasure	...	...	...	...	75,594
Grand Total	...	...	...	30,07,944	38,65,582

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Railway
materials.
Iron.

298. Railway materials still head the list and comprise over 30 per cent. of the total value of foreign imports. There was a further increase of nearly 20 per cent. in the importation of these materials during the year.

299. Iron is now the next important article of the foreign import trade, comprising over 20 per cent. of the total value of that trade. Its importations rose in quantity by 18,639 cwt., or 25.4 per cent., and in value by Rs. 1.92 lakhs, or 31.7 per cent. The greatest expansion was in girders and galvanized iron.

Cotton
piece-
goods.

300. The direct trade in cotton piece goods has been gradually increasing during the last five years, and now comprises over 10 per cent. of the total foreign imports. The value rose from Rs. 2.86 lakhs to Rs. 4.00 lakhs, or by 25 per cent. Prints and chintz from the United Kingdom, Belgium and Holland showed the chief advances.

Tea chests.

301. There has been an increase of Rs. 1.26 lakhs or 51½ per cent. in the value of tea-chests imported, but the figures are lower than in 1904-1905. Many tea chests are now supplied locally by the Forest Department.

Salt.

302. Imports of salt from the United Kingdom increased by 3,540 tons or 118.5 per cent. and from Hamburg by 1,833 tons or 41.7 per cent., while those from Aden decreased by 7,017 tons or 42.6 per cent. The aggregate imports declined by 1,644 tons or 6.8 per cent. This was probably due to the existence of considerable stocks of salt in the Government godas at the commencement of the year and also to the importation coastwise of 1,340 tons of duty paid English salt from Calcutta.

Tin.

303. This trade has shown a considerable increase in the past year, which is principally due to the manufacture at Chittagong of oil tins by the Burma Oil Company.

Machinery
and mill-
work.

304. There has been a decrease of Rs. 14,056, or 12.3 per cent., in the value of machinery, etc., imported, probably owing to exceptionally large imports of these articles in previous years for the construction of mills.

Steel.

305. The imports of steel have risen in value, but diminished in quantity. The decrease in quantity is chiefly in beams, pillars, girders, and bridge work.

Hardware
and cutlery

306. These articles form but 2 per cent. of the foreign import trade. The decrease shown is probably due to the scarcity which affected the purchasing power of a large body of the people.

Provisions.

307. There was a net increase of Rs. 10 lakhs, or 64.8 per cent., under this head. Biscuits and condensed milk showed a marked rise.

Wood and
wood
manufac-
ture.
Oils.

308. There was an importation of timber from Sydney for building purposes.

309. The trade in oil from abroad fell off by 32.7 per cent., and is now trifling, the fall being specially in kerosine oil, as the supply is now received from Burma.

Sugar.

310. Sugar from foreign countries is scarcely imported here. A cargo of 600 cwts. was specially imported from China in the year 1905-1906 as an experiment. The quantity shown in 1906-1907 came from Germany.

Treasure.

311. For the first time during the past five years imports of treasure of the value of Rs. 75,594 took place during the year. The importations were from the United Kingdom.

Import
trade
of
Chittagong
with other
countries.

312. Imports from the United Kingdom represent about 85 per cent. of the total import trade (in merchandise and treasure) of Chittagong during the year, imports from other European countries about 8 per cent., and imports from Australia about 3 per cent. of the whole. The remainder was divided between the other countries in Asia.

SECTION 8.—Foreign Trade.—Exports.

[See Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

Export
trade.

313. During the year 1906-1907 the exports were practically confined to jute, tea and a small quantity of hemp. There is usually a considerable export trade in rice and paddy abroad, but this has disappeared with the failure of the crops in

Eastern Bengal during the last two years. The value of the different articles exported to foreign ports was as follows:—

	1905-1906.	1906-1907.
	Rs.	Rs.
Jute (raw) ...	1,25,17,862	2,31,95,712
Tea ...	1,55,78,512	1,57,69,052
Hemp ...	57,540	48,465
Rice and paddy ...	5,89,270	1,340
Grain ...	10,000	...
Rice bran ...	9,912	...
Tobacco ...	19	...
Manure, animal bones ...	...	...
All other articles of merchandise ...	5,384	7,975
Total ...	2,87,68,499	3,90,22,544

314. The total value of raw jute exported rose during the year by Rs. 106·78 lakhs, Jute. or 85·3 per cent. The rise in quantity was 2,79,609 cwt., or 21·4 per cent. The United Kingdom absorbed 66·31 per cent., the United States of America 21·85 per cent., France 7·04 per cent., and Germany 4·78 per cent., of the jute exported. No jute was exported to Russia or Belgium. This is the first time that jute has taken the leading place in the export trade of Chittagong.

315. Tea, which during the past five years has been the most important article Tea. of trade of the port, shows a further expansion, compared with 1905-1906, of 505,739 lbs. This is equivalent to an increase of 1·2 per cent. which is also the percentage of increase in its value. The increase was almost exclusively in shipments to the United Kingdom.

316. There would have been a much greater development of the jute trade, but Defective for the defective arrangements between the River Steamer Companies and the Assam- arrangements. Bengal Railway Company for the traffic from Narayanganj *via* Chandpur to Chittagong and for the upward rice traffic in the busy jute season which made it difficult for the Railway Company to provide wagons for jute. The latter reason also accounts for the small increase in tea some of which was shut out from Chittagong at the end of the season and diverted to Calcutta.

317. Of the export trade of Chittagong, the principal shares were taken by the United Kingdom (78 per cent.) and America (13 per cent.). The other European Export trade of Chittagong with foreign ports. countries, Ceylon, New Zealand and Australia divided the rest between them.

SECTION 9.—Coasting Trade.

[See Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

318. As already observed there was an abnormal rise in the coasting trade of Coasting Trade. Chittagong due to the large importations of rice from Burma. There was a falling off in exports to Calcutta as the carriage of half-pressed jute *via* Chittagong to the Hooghly was interfered with by the congestion caused by the rice traffic.

319. The total value of imports of this trade during the last two years was as Imports. follows:—

Ports.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bengal ...	16,71,622	32,32,289
Madras ...	1,40,050	78,428
Bombay ...	10,802	18,606
Burma ...	36,02,519	2,62,94,960
Ports within the Province ...	4,76,989	94,919
Indian ports not British ...	376	...
Total ...	59,02,358	2,97,19,202

The trade with Bengal advanced by Rs. 15·61 lakhs, or 93 per cent., owing to larger importations of apparel, cotton piece goods, hardware and cutlery and provisions from Calcutta. Bengal.

The decrease in the trade with Madras was due to short importations of cocoa-nut-oil and spices (black pepper) from Cochin. The reason was that rice is usually exported in large quantities from Chittagong and Cochin and these articles are brought back, but there was no export trade in rice in 1906-1907. Madras.

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBU-
TION.

mills.

Some machinery was imported from Bombay for the erection of cotton-ginning.

Bombay.
Ports with-
in the Pro-
vince.
Exports.

There was a decrease of Rs. 3·82 lakhs owing to abolition of the port of Narayanjan on the 12th May 1906.

320. The total value of exports of this trade during the last two years was as follows :—

Ports.	{ 1905-06.		1906-07.	
	Rs.		Rs.	
Bengal	...	52,96,952	...	47,23,983
Madras	...	7,83,119	...	81,576
Bombay	...	60,856	...	3,47,506
Burma	...	23,60,112	...	80,95,931
Ports within the Province	...	1,61,477	...	66,756
Indian Ports not British	...	...	...	...
Total	...	86,62,516	...	1,33,15,752

The heaviest increase in exports during the year was in treasure, which was sent principally to Burma ports for the purchase of rice. The value of exports of jute amounted to Rs. 8·12 lakhs, against Rs. 25·64 lakhs the year before. This was due to the failure of the arrangements for the continuance of this trade which was started in 1905-1906. There were advances in hides and skins, oils and spices. Decreases occurred mainly in rice and paddy due to the scarcity in the province, and also in apparel, cotton, raw, metals, provisions, salt, tea and tobacco.

The trade of ports within the province declined owing to abolition of the port of Narayanjan.

321. The value of imports of treasure during the year was *nil*.

Exports, exclusively confined to silver, amounted to Rs. 89·94 lakhs, as against Rs. 19·38 lakhs during the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 70·56 lakhs; Rs. 69·70 lakhs were sent to Burma ports and Rs. 20·24 lakhs were sent to Calcutta mainly by the Banks here.

SECTION 10.—Frontier Trade.

[See Report on the Trade between the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the adjoining Foreign tribes and countries for the year 1906-1907.]

Countries
and tribes.

322. The tribes and countries with which this province carried on external land trade during the year 1906-1907 were :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| (1) Bhutan. | (4) Abor, Mishmai, Naga and Khamti Tribes. |
| (2) Towang. | (5) Manipur. |
| (3) Aka and Daffa Tribes. | (6) Hill Tippera. |

No change was made either in the manner in which trade statistics were obtained or in the position of the registering stations, except that the returns of trade with Bhutan registered at Buxa, Hantupara and Ambari in the district of Jalpaiguri, which formerly were included in the Bengal returns, were incorporated with the returns of this province from the 1st April 1906.

In accordance with the suggestions made by the committee on Indian Trade Statistics 1905, the registration of trade between this province and the States of Manipur and Hill Tippera has been abolished with effect from the 31st March 1907.

Value of
imports
and ex-
ports.

323. The trade with each of the trans-frontier countries in merchandise is stated in the following figures :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhutan	1,36,216	11,23,754	37,308	2,49,385
Towang	82,907	50,168	16,175	3,832
Aka and Daffa Hills	71,588	55,071	880	...
Abor, Mishmai, etc., Hills	1,47,794	1,66,788	16,602	13,777
Manipur	3,17,508	8,47,185	2,11,958	3,46,738
Hill Tippera	7,02,105	7,14,393	2,47,094	2,50,741
Total	14,58,118	29,57,359	5,30,017	8,64,473

The total value of the trade was Rs. 38,21,832 against Rs. 19,88,135 in 1905-1906, i.e., practically double. Of the increase, Rs. 11,18,743, or nearly two-thirds, was due to the inclusion of returns from the registering stations in Jalpaiguri, and Rs. 6,64,457, or one-third to the expansion of trade with Manipur.

35.9 per cent. of the trade was carried on with Bhutan, 31.2 per cent. with Manipur and 25.3 per cent. with Hill Tippera, the balance being divided among the remaining frontier tribes.

324. The variations in some of the principal articles comprised in the import trade of the province are noticed below :—

Cattle were very largely imported chiefly from Manipur to the Surma Valley districts where there was a great demand for them, as a result of the heavy mortality from rinderpest which has been very prevalent during the last two years. Most of the animals imported were buffaloes.

Timber and bamboos are imported chiefly from Hill Tippera and Bhutan. Large quantities of timber also came from Manipur. There was a considerable increase in the imports of timber from all of these countries, but the import of bamboos from Hill Tippera declined.

Caoutchouc is imported only into Assam. The quantity is gradually diminishing.

Husked rice and paddy.—Sixty three thousand four hundred and fifty-one maunds of husked rice from Manipur and 15,458 maunds of paddy from Hill Tippera were brought into Cachar and Sylhet, where the outturn of the winter crop of 1905-1906 was very poor. The amounts imported in the previous year were 41,518 and 14,687 maunds, respectively. There was no appreciable increase of import from Hill Tippera owing to a similar failure of the crop there. On the other hand, there was a slight increase in the export of husked rice to Hill Tippera. Main im-ports.

Raw cotton.—The imports of raw cotton from Hill Tippera fell off considerably owing to a poor harvest in the Tippera Hills.

Musk and wax were apparently more largely imported from Bhutan during the year than in 1905-1906. But this was merely due to the inclusion of returns from Jalpaiguri district.

A considerable increase in the import of lac is ascribed to fine weather and absence of epidemic at the time of the fairs in Kamrup district annually attended by Bhutias.

Oranges form one of the important articles of imports from Bhutan to Jalpaiguri.

325. The variations in the export trade under some of the more important heads are given below :— Main Ex-ports.

Cotton piece-goods (European) are mainly exported to Bhutan and Manipur. There was an increase in value in the export to Manipur from Rs. 21,058 to Rs. 46,720.

Unhusked rice and tobacco.—Considerable quantities of paddy and tobacco were exported to Bhutan.

Dry fish is exported to Manipur and Hill Tippera which consume a large quantity annually.

Betel-nuts form the most valuable article of export trade to Manipur. The value increased from Rs. 70,392 in 1905-1906 to Rs. 1,76,990 in 1906-1907. The increase is ascribed to the fact that the cart road, which has been improved, was not closed to traffic for some months as in other years.

326. There was a noteworthy increase in the export of manufactured articles from Hill Tippera to Sylhet. This is ascribed chiefly to the opening of two new factories for making tea boxes in Hill Tippera. Manufactured articles.

Section 11.—Rail and River-borne Trade.

[See Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the year 1906-1907.]

327. The total value of the trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam with other provinces in 1906-1907 was 4,961 lakhs of rupees, of which 1,867 lakhs represented imports and 3,094 lakhs represented exports. Railway and River Trade.

328. The principal articles imported into the province were cotton piece goods (439 lakhs), cotton twist and yarn (92 lakhs), rice, husked and unhusked (373 lakhs), iron and steel (140 lakhs), sugar, refined and unrefined (129 lakhs), mustard and rape oil (97 lakhs), salt (69 lakhs), kerosine oil (62 lakhs), grain and pulse (46 lakhs), betel-nuts (39 lakhs), wheat flour (22 lakhs), and chilies (20 lakhs). The Principal imports and exports.

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

exports consisted mainly of raw jute (2,128 lakhs), tea (541 lakhs), gunny bags and cloths (17 lakhs), hides (74 lakhs), tobacco (32 lakhs), lac (22 lakhs), oil seeds (21 lakhs), raw cotton (18 lakhs), and raw silk (10 lakhs).

Direction
of trade.

329. About 77 per cent. of the exports and nearly 83 per cent. of the imports of the province went to, or came from, Calcutta. The rest of Bengal received 23, and sends 15 per cent., respectively, of the exports and imports. The trade with other provinces was insignificant.

Proportion
of river-
borne to
rail-borne
trade.

330. About 54 per cent. of the registered imports and the same proportion of the exports of the province were carried during the year entirely by river. The rest was carried by rail. It is clear, therefore, that the water ways are, as they will probably always remain, the most important trade routes between this and other provinces. Even in trade with Calcutta, in which the Railway enjoys immense advantage over river traffic, and especially over country boat traffic, 57 per cent. of the imports and 48 per cent. of the exports were carried by river.

SECTION 12.—Public Works.

[See Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for 1906-1907.]

REVENUE.

331. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 1,37,483 and the total expenditure to Rs. 49,62,508. There was a net gain in connection with the working of the Jorhat State Railway of Rs. 3,252.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

Military
works.

332. A combined Armoury and Sergeant Instructor's quarters were constructed at Nazira at a cost of Rs. 9,000. The raising and improving of the Imphal river protective bund in the Manipur Cantonment was completed, and repairs were done to the Peelkhana buildings, at Dacca.

Civil works.

333. Four temporary buildings for extra accommodation for the Accountant General's office at Shillong and a building for the Telegraph Subdivisional office and Training Class at Gauhati were completed. Land was acquired for Telegraph and Post offices in Dacca, Patiya and Comilla and extension works in connection with the Post Offices at Mymensingh, Rangpur and the Postal Superintendent's office at Barisal were commenced.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

BUILDINGS.

Residences
for Govern-
ment offi-
cials.

334. Extensive repairs were found to be necessary for the Government house at Shillong. Additions and improvements to the temporary Government house at Dacca were carried out. A site for Government house at Chittagong was acquired. The staff quarters at Dacca were completed.

Houses were completed, improved or constructed for the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, at Silchar, for the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer of Shillong, for the Deputy Commissioners of Dhubri and Jalpaiguri, for the Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of Police at Jorhat, for the Assistant Settlement Officer of Nowgong, for the Civil Surgeon of Barisal, for the Joint Magistrate of Chittagong, for five Munsifs at Mymensingh and for one Munsif at Kasba. Bungalows were purchased for the Chief Secretary at Shillong and for the Superintendent of Police at Rajshahi. Residences for the Superintendents of Police at Barisal and Chittagong and the Civil Surgeon at Nakhali were under construction. Arrangements were made for constructing quarters for two Deputy Magistrates at Faridpur, two Munsifs each at Kishoreganj, Kurigram and Gaibandha, and one Munsif each at Tangail and Naogaon. Seven hundred and sixty-two acres of land were under acquisition for the new civil station at Dacca.

Secretariat
and other
Depart-
mental
Officers.

335. Additions and alterations to the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture were made, and a temporary office was constructed for the Commissioner of Salt and Excise at Shillong.

Law and
Justice.

336. The new cutcherry buildings at Jorhat were well advanced by the close of the

year. The single Munsifs at Shergpur and Kishoreganj, an extension of the Dinajpur Registration office, a separate treasury office at Maulvi Bazar, a building for the pleaders of the Judge's Court at Sylhet and additions and alterations to the Deputy Commissioner's court house at Tezpur were completed. New record racks were supplied to the Bogra Collectorate. The settlement office at Gauhati was dismantled and reconstructed at Tezpur. Additions, improvements and alterations to the Magistrate's courts at Dacca, Pabna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Shergpur and at Kishoreganj, to the Munsifi at Munshiganj and to the Subdivisional courts at Netrokona and Tangail, were in progress. Office buildings for the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill districts, at Silchar, and for the Circle Sub-Deputy Collector at Behali Tahsil offices at Falakata and Kanaighat Circuit houses at Noakhali and in the Chittagong Hill tracts, and Mandals, offices at Messa and Barpeta were under construction.

337. The School of Engineering, with its hostel and subsidiary buildings, at Dacca was completed and occupied during the year. The arts college, hostel and subsidiary buildings in the same town were well advanced and the Curzon Hall completed to roof level. The works remaining to be done are the Laboratory and subsidiary buildings, gymnasium, roads, dressing and levelling the compound and water-supply and drainage. An Arabic class room for the Madrassa and a hostel for the training school at Chittagong, the training school at Silchar, the Jubilee School at Sunamganj, the training school with a hostel for students and resident master's quarters, a girls' school, a Muhammadan boarding house and the Government school at Jorhat were completed or nearly completed. The construction of additional class rooms for the Government High school at Sylhet and one additional school building at Silchar were in progress. A hostel for Hindu boys and resident master's quarters for the Dhubri High School and a hostel for Cachari pupils at Chatgari in the Mangaldai subdivision were commenced. A Normal school for village schoolmasters and a hostel for the High school at Shillong were constructed. Improvements and extensions were made to the play-ground of the Cotton College at Gauhati and improvements to the English High school at Dibrugarh were nearly completed.

Education-
al Build-
ings.

338. The hospital, the enclosure wall and the solitary cells at Mymensing, four solitary cells at Rangpur, six solitary cells and a ward for civil prisoners at Barisal, a hut and a segregation ward at Chittagong and the temporary work-sheds at Sylhet were completed. Improvements to the Barisal, Faridpur and Rajshahi jails, additions and alterations to the jails at Pabna and Bogra and to the sub-jails at Seraiganj and at Brahmanbaria and the construction of two double-storied barracks, one at Chittagong and the other at Rajshahi, of two A class barracks in the Tezpur jail, of a female ward in the subsidiary jail at Nowgong and of the jailors quarter's at Malda were in hand.

Jails.

339. Two barracks for the reserve police at Nowgong, which were in progress at the close of the previous year, were completed as was also the pucca well in the police lines. The police buildings at Kulaura and Nabiganj and a police outpost building at Lalbagh in Nattore were finished. A sum of Rs. 2,610 was expended during the year on the construction of the Civil Police married quarters at Aijal, while new police buildings at Kamalganj, Balaganj, Haflong, Chattak, Fenchuganj, Gohpur, Sootea, Nalbari, Barpeta and Rangia were in progress.

Police
Buildings.

340. An office for the Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi, the dispensary and Hospital Assistant's quarters at Dimapur and two male wards in the lunatic asylum at Tezpur were completed, while a phthisis ward in the Dacca Lunatic Asylum was commenced. Additional accommodation was provided, and alterations made in the vaccine depôt at Shillong.

Medical.

341. The provision of an additional tank and of a pipe service to the central distillery at Jorhat was in progress. A spirit godown at Tinsukia was commenced and a pucca well and platform for the tank attached to the distillery godown at Dibrugarh were nearly completed.

Excise.

342. Land was acquired for a site for the office of the Executive Engineer at Chittagong, additions and alterations were carried out in the Executive Engineer's office at Tezpur, while at Jorhat a sum of Rs. 5,372 was spent in providing godowns, quarters for subordinates and clerks and a dark room for printing drawings in connection with the construction of the new station.

Public
Works De-
partment
buildings.

343. Additions and alterations to the combined Superintendent's office and Club at Aijal were carried out.

Other build-
ings.

Rupees 6,720 were spent on putting wire fencing round the Dacca farm and Rs. 28,529 on farm buildings, offices, godowns and roads.

COMMUNICATIONS.

344. On communications, original works, a sum of Rs. 5,60,702 was expended as noted below :—

	Rs.
(a) Bridges	1,03,262
(b) On new cart roads	1,03,371
(c) On bridle roads	35,763
(d) On dak and inspection bungalows	70,948
Total	3,13,344

The balance was spent on existing roads.

345. The following important works in the Naga Hills and Surma Valley Divisions were in progress or completed—

	Rs.
(1) Constructing a bridge over the Barak river at Karong. ...	58,178
(2) Constructing a bridge over the Dhansiri river at Dimapur. ...	1,32,902
(3) Restoring Nowgong-Dhing road	66,477
(4) Metalling the worst portions of Nowgong-Kampur road between Kothiatoli and Kampur Railway station... ..	5,241
(5) Constructing breast walls on Dimapur-Manipur road. ...	29,634
(6) Improving Kothiatoli-Amluki road by laying murram and sand. ...	6,215
(7) Improving Lanka-Kharikhana road	7,955
(8) Raising and improving Kothiatoli-Amluki road.	4,833
(9) Widening the Silchar-Hailakandi road and metalling portions thereof that are still unmetalled	28,050

Assam
Trunk
Road.

346. A provisional estimate for Rs. 10,000 to cover the expenditure of the year was sanctioned for raising and improving the road between Lakhipur and Fakirganj. The planked roadway of two wooden bridges was replaced with corrugated iron sheets. A portion of the road between the Bhogdoi bridge and Tarajan culvert was metalled.

Dhubri-
Kachugaon
road.

347. The raising of this road for metalling was nearly completed. A screw pile bridge was finished in the 17th mile, and a similar bridge at Damurdah in the 8th mile was in progress.

North
Trunk
Road.

348. The Gilladhari bridge was nearing completion; a screw pile bridge in the 12th mile west of Tezpur was in progress; the portion of the road between Tezpur town and the river Bhorelli in the 9th mile east of Tezpur was raised and improved while the Kuapani bridge was reconstructed and extended.

Gauhati-
Shillong
Cart Road.

349. Improvements to this road have been in progress since 1905-1906. The most important work was the reconstruction of the Barapani bridge, a single span of 70 feet.

Shillong-
Cherra
Road.

350. The remetalling of the Cherra section of the road was taken in hand during the year, as a good deal of the original metal had disappeared in consequence of the earthquake of 1897.

The road between Fakirgram and Kolabari, a distance of 16½ miles, was improved and bridged for motor traffic for His Excellency the Viceroy's shoot of February 1907. The road from Kachugaon to Saralbhangra, a distance of 10 miles under the Forest Department, was also put in order by the Public Works Department for the same purpose.

Tondoo
Forest
Road.

351. Sanction was given to construct a road through the Tondoo forest in the Duars to connect the Nagrakata district with the Railway at Ramshai Hat in the event of the railway route being again interrupted by floods, as was the case during the year. The jungle was cleared and the necessary surveys made for the preparation of the estimate, but for want of labour very little could be done before the close of the year.

Construct-
ing a new
road
through
the Tizu
Valley in
the Naga
Hills dis-
trict.

352. Road-cutting was almost completed, only blasting and widening of some bad portions remained to be done. An estimate for erecting bridges and culverts was sanctioned.

Road from
Mauphlang
to Lengar
Bazar.

353. The clinometer survey of a cart road from Mauphlang to Lengar Bazar at the mouth of the Umpani river was completed.

354. The Rajabhatkhowa-Jaigaon road, 20 miles long, in the Western Duars constructed by the Public Works Department was handed over to the Jalpaiguri District Board and the Hilli-Balurghat road in the district of Dinajpur was taken over by the Public Works Department from the Dinajpur District Board.

Rajabhat-
khowa-Jal-
gaon Road
Chandra-
ghona-Ban-
darban-
Road.

355. The Chandraghona-Banbarban road in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was improved.

356. The inspection bungalows at Bungtlang and Shillingkawn were constructed during the year.

Aijal-Fa-
lam road.

357. The total expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 10,530 against an estimated amount of Rs. 10,385. This has reduced the journey between Aijal and Silchar by one march.

Realigning
and cutting
parts of the
Aijal-Dwar-
bund road
between
Kangialand
Kolosib.

Rupees 1,588 were expended during the year on the improvement of the bridle path between Lungleh and Demagiri.

358. The dāk bungalows at Dimapur, Hailakandi and Salchapra were completed during the year. A three-roomed inspection bungalow at Messa and the reconstruction of the inspection bungalow and subordinates' staging huts at Kathiatiali were in progress, as were also two new inspection bungalows at Salona and Chapanolla. The last named bungalow was completed by the close of the year. The inspection bungalow at Rangagora was dismantled and rebuilt at Samaguri.

Dak and
inspection
bungalows,
etc.

The combined Railway and Public Works Department rest-house at Lumding was completed by the Assam-Bengal Railway, Government having contributed Rs. 2,640 towards its cost.

A sum of Rs. 5,213 was spent on improvements and reconstruction of staging huts and a well in the Rangjuli inspection bungalow compound in the Lower Assam Division.

The inspection bungalows on the Aijal-North Vanlaiphai road in the Lushai Hills were reconstructed and an inspection bungalow at Paikhai was completed.

359. On the maintenance of communications a sum of Rs. 5,52,887 was expended on the following classes of roads:—

(1) Metalled roads	...	...	...	...	250.93 miles.
(2) Unmetalled roads	...	...	...	...	1,721.24 „
(3) Bridle roads	...	...	...	...	1,837.91 „

The above expenditure also includes the maintenance of dāk and inspection bungalows and serais and the usual annual contribution of Rs. 30,000 paid by the Manipur State towards the up-keep of the Nichuguard-Manipur road.

360. The following were the most important works undertaken under this head :—

Miscella-
neous
Public
Improve-
ments.

Settling tank and filter beds for the Gauhati water-works.	Filling in moats and hollows within the site selected for the new civil station of the Jorhat.
Laying pipes for ditto ditto.	Experimental artesian boring at Jorhat.
Providing new pumping plant for ditto.	Improving the drainage of the Jorhat town.

A sum of Rs. 31,076 was hypotheated for acquiring land for the new station at Jorhat, for a Public Works Department brickfield and for the site of the artesian boring work. The deepening of an old tank at Dimapur was in progress. A sum of Rs. 2,183 was spent in improvements to the civil station at Haflong. A sum of Rs. 4,950 was expended during the year in improvements to navigation on the Dhaleswari river between Sairang and Bhairabicherra. The major portion of the amount was spent on the construction of a tow-path from Changsil to Sairang.

361. The construction of a high school building at Habiganj and four masonry wells in the Sylhet Municipality were in progress.

Contribu-
tion
works.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

362. A sum of Rs. 4,130 was paid to Messrs. Kilburn & Company for dredging a shoal, which had formed at the take-off of the Buriganga river and threatened to prevent the flow of water from the Dhaleswari river. The dredger was also employed on some shoals opposite Dacca.

Irrigation.

A sum of Rs. 1,489 was expended on the training of the Dhubri river between Therria and Companyganj. The Bejijan Nullah was improved and a sluice culvert of two spans of 10 feet each was constructed on the Jorhat State Railway line to allow of internal discharge from the above Nullah near Gossaingaon.

PRODUC-
TION
AND
DISTRIBU-
TION.

363. The following are the most important works :—

- (1) Strengthening the 1st section of the Brahmaputra bund in the 2nd and 3rd miles.
- (2) Raising the Brahmaputra bund.

Embank-
ments.

The various embankments in Eastern Bengal and the areas protected by them in square miles are shown below:—

Embankment.	Length.		Area protected in square miles.
	Miles.	Feet.	
1	2	3	4
1. Ganges embankment at Rampur Boalia ...	7	...	} 2 square miles nearly.
2. Malda embankment at Malda ...	2	2,244	
Two subsidiary lines at Malda ...	...	1,157	
3. Chota Manikya embankment at Bogra ...	...	1,820	} $\frac{1}{4}$ of a square mile.
4. Pabna embankment ...	1	...	
5. Embankment at Bhola in the Barisal district ...	...	2,375	
Total ...	10	2,776	

Floods.

364. These embankments received general repairs during the year.

In the Eastern Bengal Circle the flood of 1905, which constituted a record flood, was far exceeded by that of 1906. The highest gauge reading on the Ganges at Boalia being 68·3 above mean sea level as compared with 64·5 of 1905, or an increase of nearly 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

In the Assam Circle the floods were also higher than any previously recorded.

In Sylhet, the floods were said to be at least 12 inches higher than any of the last decade, and at Habiganj and Sunamganj the Government buildings were from 12 to 18 inches under water.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Bengal
Duars
Railway.

365. During the year the control of Bengal Duars Railway, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of its contract, was transferred from the Government of Bengal to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Sylhet-
Kulaura
Railway.

366. The construction of the Sylhet-Kulaura Railway by the Assam-Bengal Railway was held in abeyance for want of funds.

The surveys in progress during the year were—

(a) By the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Mymensingh *via* Netrakona to Lengar Bazar, 50·5 miles on the 3' 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " gauge. It is understood that the report and estimate of the survey has not yet reached the Railway Board.

(b) By the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited (Dibru-Sadiya Railway) an extension from Talup station on the main line to Saikhoaghat, a length of about 9 miles on the 3' 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " gauge. The report and estimate of this extension have been submitted to the Railway Board for sanction.

367. In connection with the Railway requirements of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Railway Board was addressed as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor would advocate a prospecting survey with a view to ascertain the best connection between the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway and Bhairab Bazar. His Honour would also suggest for consideration, whether a line following the District Board road from Dacca *via* Damra, Paunchdona and Narsinghdi, and so on *via* Raipura to Bhairab Bazar, would not be better than a line from Tangi and Kaliganj and Narsinghdi. It is probable that eventually a direct line from Mymensingh to Bhairab Bazar, tapping the Kishoreganj subdivision will be constructed, linking up with the Dacca-Mymensingh System at Mymensingh, which may subsequently be followed by the construction of a bridge at the latter place. In this case it might be more suitable to link Dacca and Bhairab Bazar directly than to go round by Tangi, and the country traversed would probably be equally easy.

368. The following proposals for the construction of Branch Railways and Tramways were received during the year :—

- (i) Constuction of a branch line of railway from Rajabhatkhowa to Jaigaon.
- (ii) Proposal to connect Barisal with Calcutta by a broad gauge railway *via* Gournadi and Nawapara on Eastern Bengal State Railway.
- (iii) Proposal to open a tramway alongside the Government road leading from Borbam division garden to the Amguri station on the Assam-Bengal Railway.
- (iv) Construction of a light tramway between Shillong and Gauhati on the Renard system.

Proposals (i) and (ii) were submitted to the Railway Board, (iii) was sanctioned by the Local Government on certain conditions, and (iv) was negatived, as the Gauhati-Shillong road was not considered suitable for running a line of vehicles connected together.

369. The railways in Eastern Bengal and Assam, which are administered or controlled by the Local Government, are—

	Miles.
(1) Jorhat State Railway	31.75
(2) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	20.10
(3) Dibru-Sadiya Railway, including extensions	77.50
(4) Bengal Duars Railway	153.06

370. Gauge 2 feet The length of the Railway was increased from 30.25 to 31.75 miles, on account of the river terminus section having been extended one mile and a half lower down the cold-weather steamer ghat. The total direct capital outlay, including "Suspense," from the commencement of operations to the end of December 1905 amounted to Rs. 9,09,185; and excluding "Suspense" to Rs. 8,80,866, which gives an average of Rs. 27,744 per mile open (calculated on 31.75 miles, the mileage open at the end of the year 1906). The gross earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 92,540 and the working expenses to Rs. 79,545, showing an increase of Rs. 12,995, against Rs. 2,458 in the previous year. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings for the year 1906 was 85.95, against 96.87 in 1905, and that of net earnings on the total capital outlay on open line, including "Suspense" was 1.43, against .27.

371. Gauge 2' 6". The total capital outlay of the railway amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, giving an average of Rs. 24,362 per mile open. The gross earnings for the year 1906 were Rs. 1,14,740, against Rs. 1,03,380 in 1905 and the working expenses amounted to Rs. 79,764, against Rs. 76,298.

372. Gauge 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". The total capital outlay on this line up to 31st December 1906 rose from Rs. 87,31,147 to Rs. 88,18,873. The gross earnings showed an increase of Rs. 53,988 over those of the previous year. The percentage of net earnings on capital outlay was 4.63, against 4.95 in 1905. The total capital cost of the Ledo and Tikak-Margherita Colliery Branch (8.50 miles in length) to the end of 1906 was Rs. 16,83,031. The percentage of net earnings to capital cost was 1.49 only, against 1.62 in the previous year.

373. Gauge 2' 6". The construction of the line (19.50 miles in length) was sanctioned in 1902, but for want of funds work has been at a standstill since December 1904, up to which date the total outlay amounted to Rs. 9,62,898.

374. Gauge 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". The open mileage of the main line up to 31st December 1906 was 775.28 miles. During the year a proposal for the transfer of the management of the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway to the Assam-Bengal Railway was submitted to the Railway Board for consideration, but no decision was arrived at. Construction work on the Akhaura-Bhairab Bazar Branch Railway was also temporarily stopped for want of funds. Work was, however, resumed at the close of the year.

375. The open mileage of the metre-gauge sections of the line in this province up to 31st December 1906 was 584.25 miles. An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,15,830 for diversion of the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway, which passes through the proposed civil station at Dacca was sanctioned during the year.

376. Gauge 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". The open mileage of the main line and of the extensions at the close of the year remained the same as stated in last year's report, *i.e.*, 36.10, and 166.5 miles, respectively.

ESTABLISHMENT.

377. The total charges for Public Works establishment amounted to Rs. 7,68,695, including a sum of Rs. 510, debited to contribution works. For the execution of Imperial Military and Civil Works, a charge of 23 per cent. on the cost of the works is made, the amount charged being Rs. 20,989, which is not included in the above. The cost of Public Works establishment, *viz.*, Rs. 7,68,695, comes to 23.67 per cent. of the outlay on works carried out by the Public Works Department.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(a) GROSS REVENUE.

373. The receipts and expenditure of the province during 1906-1907 were as follows :—

Heads of Accounts.				Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1				2	3	4	5
A. Principal Heads of Revenue—				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	...	...	...	89,55,454	1,03,97,360	...	1,93,52,814
II.—Opium	...	...	...	6,44,656	...	...	6,44,656
III.—Salt	...	...	...	19,51,587	...	...	19,51,587
IV.—Stamps	...	...	...	45,31,357	45,34,358	...	90,68,715
V.—Excise	...	...	...	31,86,791	31,86,791	...	63,73,582
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	...	...	...	16,12,024	22,99,403	39,11,427
VII.—Customs	...	...	...	66,657	...	...	66,657
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	...	...	...	5,11,773	5,11,774	...	10,23,547
IX.—Forest	...	...	...	6,60,296	6,60,296	...	13,20,592
X.—Registration	...	...	...	...	8,30,821	...	8,30,821
XI.—Tributes from Native States	...	...	...	50,100	...	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue				2,06,61,671	2,17,33,424	22,99,403	4,45,94,498
B.—Interest—							
XII.—Interest	...	...	...	67	42,431	4,232	46,730
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—							
XVIA.—Law and Justice—							
Courts of Law	...	...	...	...	3,30,706	...	3,30,706
XVIB.—Law and Justice—							
Jails	...	...	...	...	3,35,469	...	3,35,469
XVII.—Police	...	...	...	...	1,19,944	2,94,517	4,14,461
XVIII.—Marine	...	...	...	...	33,656	...	33,656
XIX.—Education	...	...	...	...	2,16,894	78,420	2,95,314
XX.—Medical	...	...	...	...	18,448	31,898	50,346
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	...	...	...	5,765	52,376	58,141
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments				...	10,60,882	4,57,211	15,18,093
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—							
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	...	...	...	65,261	10,807	...	76,071
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	...	...	...	4,019	18,073	529	22,621
XXV.—Miscellaneous	...	...	...	11,041	2,73,706	58,561	3,43,308
Total E.—Miscellaneous				80,324	3,02,586	59,090	4,42,000
Carried over				...	...	...	...

GROSS REVENUE.

53 Chap. V,
REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
Brought forward	Rs. ...	Rs. ...	Rs. ...	Rs. ...
H.—Railways—				
XXV.—State Railways (Gross Receipts)	...	86,196	...	86,196
Deduct Working Expenses	...	89,102	...	89,102
Net Railway Receipts	...	—2,906	...	—2,906
J.—Irrigation—				
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	120	16,402	16,522
K.—Other Public Works—				
XXXI.—Military Works	5,943	...	...	5,943
XXXII.—Civil Works	1,728	2,45,152	3,88,332	6,35,212
Total K.—Other Public Works	7,671	2,45,152	3,88,332	6,41,155
Adjusting Heads—				
Contribution between Provincial and Local	...	1,50,477	12,61,515	14,11,992
Transfers between Local and Local	...	...	955	955
Total Adjusting Heads	...	1,50,477	12,62,470	14,12,947
Grand total	206,49,733	2,35,32,166	44,87,140	4,86,69,039

EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
A.—Direct demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and drawbacks	32,603	38,546	8,993	80,142
2.—Assignments and Compensations	92,843	56,583	...	1,49,426
3.—Land Revenue	7,46,544	27,16,698	...	34,63,242
5.—Salt	23,437	...	...	23,437
6.—Stamps	1,90,599	1,90,599	...	3,81,198
7.—Excise	1,00,095	1,00,096	...	2,00,191
8.—Provincial Rates	...	10,353	87,697	98,050
9.—Customs	44,344	...	...	44,344
10.—Assessed Taxes	14,285	14,285	...	28,570
11.—Forest	3,53,930	3,53,930	...	7,07,860
12.—Registration	...	5,14,969	...	5,14,969
Total A.—Direct Demands on the Revenue	15,98,680	39,96,059	96,690	56,91,429
B.—Interest—				
13.—Interest on ordinary debt	...	32,837	...	32,837
14.—Interest on other obligations	3,595	...	6,012	9,607
Total B.—Interest	3,595	32,837	6,012	42,444
Carried over	...	...	...	...

EXPENDITURE—concl'd.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward	...	...	...	...
D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments—				
18.—General Administration	1,70,896	9,99,877	1,32,298	13,03,071
19A.—Law and Justice (Courts)	...	39,60,211	90	39,60,301
19B.—Law and Justice (Jails)	...	11,57,377	...	11,57,377
20.—Police	...	38,51,844	34,991	38,86,835
21.—Marine	...	1,35,182	14,513	1,49,695
22.—Education	...	10,99,415	12,11,655	23,11,070
23.—Ecclesiastical	27,540	...	...	27,540
24.—Medical	...	7,63,966	3,26,592	10,90,558
25.—Political	...	79,619	...	79,619
26.—Scientific	312	2,04,799	55,023	2,60,134
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments ...	1,98,748	1,22,52,290	17,75,162	1,42,26,200
E.—Miscellaneous—				
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions	11,132	...	...	11,132
28.—Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances	...	...	...	...
29.—Superannuation Allowance and Pensions	894	6,38,343	6,871	6,46,108
30.—Stationery and Printing	...	2,65,486	13,733	2,79,219
32.—Miscellaneous	33,757	1,26,217	45,596	2,05,570
Total E.—Miscellaneous	45,783	10,30,046	66,200	11,42,029
F.—Famine Relief and Insurances—				
33.—Famine Relief	...	80,937	17,639	98,576
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—				
41.—Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure	...	8,763	...	8,763
J.—Irrigation—				
43.—Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	...	64,201	159	64,460
K.—Other Public Works—				
44.—Military Works	69,686	...	...	69,686
45.—Civil Works	86,414	48,43,153	26,53,530	75,83,127
45A.—Construction of Railways charged to Provincial and Local Revenues.	...	13,432	...	13,432
Total K.—Other Public Works	1,56,130	48,56,585	26,53,530	76,66,245
Adjusting Heads—				
Contribution between Provincial and Local	...	12,61,515	1,50,477	14,11,992
Transfers between Local and Local	...	...	95	955
Total Adjusting heads	...	12,61,515	1,51,432	14,12,947
Grand total	20,02,936	2,35,83,333	47,66,824	3,03,53,093

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

	1905-1906.			1906-1907.			1906-1907 compared with 1905-1906.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure --	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure --	Increase of revenue.	Decrease of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I(a) Principal Heads of Revenue	Rs. 4,35,22,015	Rs. 50,47,957	Rs. +3,84,74,058	Rs. 4,45,94,499	Rs. 56,91,429	Rs. +3,89,03,069	Rs. 10,72,483	...	Rs. 6,43,472	...
II Departmental Heads—										
(b) Interest	32,474	8,565	+23,909	46,730	42,414	+4,316	14,256	...	33,879	...
(c) Post Office	2,004	1,48,695	-1,46,691	...	...	...	...	2,004	...	1,48,695
(d) Civil Departments...	15,07,015	1,21,45,242	-1,06,38,227	15,18,093	1,42,26,290	-1,27,08,197	11,078	...	20,80,958	...
(e) Miscellaneous	5,79,892	10,63,985	-4,84,093	442,000	11,42,029	-7,00,029	...	1,37,892	78,044	...
(f) Famine Relief and Insurances.	...	...	...	...	98,576	-98,576	...	...	98,576	...
(h) Railway Revenue Accounts	12,579	...	+12,579	-2,936	8,763	-11,869	...	15,485	8,763	...
(j) Irrigation	15,011	7,141	+7,870	16,522	64,40	-47,878	1,511	...	57,319	...
(k) Other Public Works	6,11,817	63,07,843	-56,96,026	6,41,155	76,66,245	-70,25,090	29,839	...	13,58,402	...
Adjusting Heads	15,49,019	15,49,019	...	14,12,947	14,12,947	...	...	1,36,072	...	1,36,072
Total Departmental Heads...	43,09,311	2,12,30,400	-1,69,21,089	40,74,511	2,46,61,664	-2,05,87,153	56,653	2,81,453	37,16,941	2,84,677
Grand Total	4,78,31,326	2,62,78,357	+2,15,52,969	4,86,69,030	3,03,53,093	+1,83,15,936	11,29,166	2,91,453	43,59,413	2,84,677

379. The increase of Rs. 5,12,000 in expenditure under the head "Land Revenue" was distributed as follows:—

Land Revenue.

Charges of District Administration.—There was an increase of Rs. 2,52,000, of which Rs. 1,15,000 was due to changes in the mode of adjustments of certain charges between the heads Land Revenue and Courts of Law, and the rest occurred mainly under Salaries of Officers and Allowances, including 19,000 paid as grain compensation allowance. The expenditure on the deputation of a special officer to Garo Hills amounted to Rs. 14,000.

Survey and Settlement.—The increase of Rs. 1,97,000 was due to the adjustment of the entire cost of the Provincial Survey Detachment of Assam in this province and to larger settlement operations in Bakarganj and Faridpur.

Land Records and Agriculture.—The increase of Rs. 20,000 was due to the appointment of a senior officer as Director of Land Records and to the enlargement of his office.

Management of Government estates.—There was a decrease of Rs. 31,000 under this head due to smaller outlay on improvement in Government estates.

Commission on Collections.—The increase of Rs. 73,000 was due to the substitution of the Mauzadari for the Tahsildari System in Assam. There was an increase of Rs. 1,000 under Allowance to district and village officers.

380. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under this head are shown below in round figures:—

General Administration.

Minor heads.	Actuals of 1905-1906.	Budget, 1906-1907.	Actuals, 1906-1907.	Difference with 1905-1906.	Difference with budget 1906-1907.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Lieutenant-Governor	67,000	96,000	1,00,000	+ 33,000	+ 4,000
Staff and house old	72,000	43,000	43,000	- 29,000	- 3,000
Expenditure from contract allowance	...	25,000	18,000	+ 18,000	- 7,000
Legislative Council	...	7,000	1,000	+ 1,000	- 6,000
Secretariat	1,92,000	2,63,000	2,90,000	+ 98,000	+ 27,000
Tour charges	22,000	...	3,000	- 19,000	+ 3,000
Board of Revenue	61,000	1,81,000	1,75,000	+ 1,14,000	- 6,000
Commissioners	2,82,000	2,91,000	3,25,000	+ 43,000	+ 31,000
Inspector General of Registration	43,000	25,000	23,000	- 20,000	- 2,000
Account office	1,14,000	2,08,000	1,95,000	+ 81,000	- 13,000
General Establishment of Local Fund offices	97,000	1,20,000	1,30,000	+ 33,000	+ 10,000
Total	9,50,000	12,65,000	13,03,000	+ 3,53,000	+ 38,000

REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

The increase of Rs. 3,53,000 was mainly due to additional charges having been incurred for a complete year under all the heads, as compared with 4½ months in 1905-1906. The increase as compared with the budget was mainly under the minor heads "Secretariat," "Commissioners" and "General Establishment of Local Funds." The chief increases under the first head occurred under "Travelling Allowance" and "Contingencies." Under "Commissioners" there were increases under "Salaries," "Office Establishment," and "Cost of Steamers." The revision of establishments of local fund offices and larger expenditure on contingencies by the Local Boards in Assam caused the increase under the third head.

(b) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[See Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-1907.]

Permanent-
ly Settled
Estates.

381. There were in the province, at the close of the year, 11,691 permanently settled estates with a revenue demand of Rs. 98,12,319. The number of estates showed an increase of 8, which was due to the settlement of excess lands of certain lakhiraj resumed taluks with the proprietors and to partitions. The revenue, on the other hand, decreased by Rs. 1,135. Transfers of some estates to another class and abatements given for lands acquired for public purposes account for this decrease.

Temporari-
ly settled
estates.

382. The total number of estates settled temporarily in Eastern Bengal and the Hill Districts was 10,653. The number of estates in Eastern Bengal decreased by 17 and the total revenue by Rs. 2,042. This result was due to the transfer of some estates to another class, to the removal of an estate from the tauzi roll and to the amalgamation of estates. In the hill districts, however, both the number of estates and the revenue showed a slight increase.

The total area settled for ordinary cultivation in Assam rose from 2,528,515 to 2,591,573 acres and the revenue from Rs. 49,29,575 to Rs. 50,68,415. Of the area settled, 2,402,772 acres were fully assessed and 188,801 acres were assessed at half rates. The increase, which was due mainly to the expansion of cultivation, was shared by all the districts, but was the largest in Kamrup, Sibsagar and Nowgong.

The fluctuations in the area under special settlement (from 186,266 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 90,361 in the previous year to 185,279 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 92,589) were slight. The decrease in area was mainly owing to resumption on alienation of some of the special tenures in the district of Sibsagar known as the "Ten-twenties". In the Nambor Forest in the Sibsagar district 209 houses of colonists were established and 852 acres of land taken up, of which 350 acres was brought under cultivation up to the 30th June 1907. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, remarks :—

The progress of colonization in the Nambor is not so satisfactory as might be wished. The mauzadars of Naojan and Rangmapathar complain that numerous raiyats who have taken loans on their surety have left their mauzas and settled elsewhere. The mauzadar of Rangmapathar attributes the unwillingness of people to come to these mauzas, or, when arrived, to stay there, to the difficulty of communication.

The area settled with ex-tea garden coolies increased from 116,677 acres to 124,072 acres or by nearly 6 per cent., and that settled with other immigrants (to the extent of 4,764 acres) by nearly 15 per cent. As remarked last year, a noticeable feature is the increased settlement of Nepalese in the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts. Some 40 families of Muhammadans are also reported to have come from Mymensingh and settled in mauza Bishnath in the Tezpur subdivision.

Estates
held direct
by Govern-
ment.

383. In Eastern Bengal the number of estates held under the direct management of Government was 1,559, covering an area of 2,110,632 acres or 3,298 square miles and with a revenue of Rs. 21,72,613. In the previous year there were 1,538 such estates with a revenue of Rs. 21,13,380. The increase was the result of settlement and re-settlement, auction purchases, and resumptions.

Demand
and Collec-
tions.

384. The current demand of the year was Rs. 1,86,61,491 and the arrear demand was Rs. 9,09,908. The total collections, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 1,85,70,626 or 94.88 per cent. of the total demand of Rs. 1,95,71,399, against 94.86 per cent. in the previous year. The percentages of current collections on current demand and of arrear collections on arrear demand were 96.55 and 60.83 against 96.03 and 66.65, respectively. There was thus a slight improvement as regards current collections, but a considerable falling off in respect of arrear collections which, however, was unavoidable owing to the unfavourable agricultural conditions of the last two years. The remissions, Rs. 1,45,086 represented 7.4 per cent. of the total demand, while the irrecoverable balance represented 3.5 per cent.

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

Section 2.—Customs.

[See Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1906-07 ; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section XXXIII, Merchandise Marks.]

385. The marginal statement shows the gross and net customs duty (inclusive of the duty on imported salt) realized at Chittagong in each of the past three years. There was a decrease of Rs. 38,564 in the total amount of net duty as compared with the previous year. The duty on salt, which is the chief dutiable article dealt with, fell by Rs. 31,958. The reduction of the rate of duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 a maund on the 20th March 1907 was a noticeable feature of the year. The export duty on rice decreased from nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs in 1904-1905 to practically *nil* during the year.

	04-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty (excluding duty on salt)	40,345	36,001	55,203
Import duty on salt ...	9,71,143	9,95,704	9,63,746
Export duty ...	1,22,875	31,936	95
Total gross duty ...	11,34,363	10,63,671	10,19,044
<i>Refunds and drawbacks.</i>			
Imports ...	131	21	260
Exports ...	2,636	6,302	...
Total ...	2,767	6,323	260
Total net duty ...	11,31,596	10,57,348	10,18,784

Revenue from customs, the duty on imported salt) realized at Chittagong in each of the past three years. There was a decrease of Rs. 38,564 in the total amount of net duty as compared with the previous year. The duty on salt, which is the chief dutiable article dealt with, fell by Rs. 31,958. The reduction of the rate of duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 a maund on the 20th March 1907 was a noticeable feature of the year. The export duty on rice decreased from nearly Rs. 1½

386. The total receipts of the Chittagong port amounted to Rs. 10,49,293 and the expenditure to Rs. 52,667. The receipts decreased by Rs. 36 lakhs mainly owing to the fall in the revenue from salt and in the export duty. There was an increase of Rs. 9,674 in the expenditure, which was chiefly due to the entertainment of additional clerks, an establishment for the new Customs steam launch, and the grant of grain compensation allowance to whole-time menial servants.

387. There were no cases under the Merchandise Marks Act or the Sea Customs Act. A total sum of Rs. 60 was realized as customs fines for the infringement of the rules under the latter Act.

388. Import bills of entry rose from 2,402 to 4,732 and shipping bills from 2,649 to 2,681.

SECTION 3.—Opium.

The cost price of opium sold in the Excise Department is credited to this head. The receipts on account of opium amounted to Rs. 6,44,656 against Rs. 6,04,802 in the preceding year.

SECTION 4.—Salt.

[See Report on the Administration of the Salt Department during the year 1906-07 ; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section III, Salt.]

390. As in the previous year, the preventive operations were controlled from Bengal. This arrangement will continue till the 31st March 1908, when the experimental period for which the Salt preventive establishments were sanctioned will expire. The most important administrative events of the year were :—

- The abolition of the Rawana System under Act VII of 1864. This abolition was sanctioned in 1905-1906, but was brought into operation from the 1st April 1906.
- The reduction of salt duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund with effect from the 20th March 1907.
- The opening of salt traffic in Assam : a private warehouse at Balaganj was licensed to Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co., and has been working since August 1906.

REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.Stocks and
Clearances.

391. The stocks of salt held at the commencement of the year in all golas, both public and private, were 74,101 maunds less than at the commencement of the previous year, but the importations and clearances show an increase of 67,133 maunds and 21,708 maunds, respectively. The increase in imports occurred in private golas, the quantity imported by sea for the public golas at Chittagong having declined by 79,289 maunds, or 11·60 per cent., owing, it is reported, to the want of wagon accommodation for transport to the interior and to the importation of duty-paid salt from Calcutta.

Imports.

392. The quantity of salt imported by sea decreased from 683,558 to 604,269 maunds. It is noticeable that, while imports from the United Kingdom increased by 111·19 per cent. and from Hamburg and Bremen by 40·06 per cent., imports from Aden decreased by 45·39 per cent. The decrease in the last case is ascribed partly to the fact that large stocks of the previous year remained in hand and partly to the fact that 36,582 maunds of duty-paid salt were imported from Calcutta.

Sales.

393. There was a nominal increase of ·63 per cent. in the sales of imported salt, but a decrease of Rs. 34,693, or 1·18 per cent., in duty realized thereon. These results are largely due to the reduction of duty from Re. 1·8 to Re. 1 made towards the close of the year. The decrease in the sale of imported salt in Chittagong is due, as in the case of importations to inadequate wagon supply for the transport of the salt to the interior.

Inland Bonded Warehouses.

394. There were altogether 28 private bonded warehouses open. One new warehouse at Balaganj in the district of Sylhet was licensed and one at Saraghat was closed.

Inland transport of duty-paid salt.

395. Duty-paid salt is conveyed for distribution in different districts by water and by rail. No accurate information is available as to the quantity of such salt introduced by these communications from Calcutta. The Commissioner of Rajshahi, however, estimates the importations into his division under this head at 500,000 maunds, and the Commissioner of Chittagong reports that 36,582 maunds of duty-paid salt were imported from Calcutta into Chittagong. From the figures furnished by the latter officer, it also appears that 242,000 maunds and 409,008 maunds were conveyed from Chittagong for distribution in different districts by water and rail, respectively.

Consumption in Eastern Bengal and Assam.

396. With the abolition of the Rawana system, the returns of consumption of salt, which used to be submitted by goladars to officers in charge of Police stations, have been discontinued. The correct figures of distribution and consumption cannot, therefore, be ascertained.

The total quantity of salt consumed, excluding duty-paid salt, which may have been introduced from Calcutta into the Dacca and other divisions, was 2,501,567 maunds, giving an average consumption per head of 3 seers 3 chattaks.

Prices of salt.

397. The average wholesale price of salt for the whole province was Rs. 2-11-5 per maund, against Rs. 2-10-6 in 1905-1906, and Rs. 3-1-11 in 1904-1905. Contrary to expectation, the average price was 11 pies higher than in the year preceding, in spite of the reduction of salt duty and the abolition of the Rawana System, which afforded facilities for imports and should have encouraged competition. This general rise in price was to some extent, due to the fact that, owing to the *Swadeshi* agitation, there was greater demand for *karkatch*, which sold at higher prices, than for panga or boiled salt. The poorer classes, however, continued to use the latter kind and benefited by the reduction of duty.

Preventive measures in the saliferous districts.

398. As already stated, preventive operations are still under the control of the Government of Bengal.

There was no preventive force in Bakarganj. The Commissioner of Dacca reports, as in the previous year, that there is no reason to believe that illicit practices exist in that Division.

In Chittagong there were no changes in the number and limits of circles and ranges. The Commissioner reports that the block system of patrol of the saline tracts, which was introduced during the previous year, proved effective in keeping down offences against the Salt Laws.

Easy communication between Noakhali Sadr and Sundip having been established by a regular steamer service started during the year, the limits of the jurisdiction of the Sub-Inspectors' ranges were re-arranged and made coincident with party ranges. The services of the two special Police Head Constables were retained to conducting house-searches under Section 18 of the Indian Salt Act, XII of 1882.

Offences, fines and forfeitures.

399. There were 4 prosecutions under the Salt Laws against 41 in the preceding year. The decrease is attributed to the unusual rainfall in February and March 1907, and the fall in the retail price of salt. Out of 21 persons arrested and brought to trial, 6 were convicted showing a percentage of 28·57. The fines and forfeitures realized amounted to Rs. 180 against Rs. 467.

400 The financial results of the year, compared with those of the preceding year, showed a decrease of Rs. 35,277 or 1.19 per cent. in the receipts and of Rs. 11,212 or 31.98 per cent. in the charges, giving a net revenue of Rs. 23,96,693 which was less than that of the previous year by Rs. 24,065 or .83 per cent.

SECTION 5.—Excise.

[See Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year 1906-1907; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section V.]

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

401. The total receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 63,21,577 (an increase of Rs. 1,52,422 over the receipts of the preceding year), of which Rs. 61,25,516, or 96.90 per cent., were contributed by the principal sources of revenue, viz.:—(1) Country spirits, (2) Ganja, and (3) Opium. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,15,476 under “Ganja”, due to the unfavourable settlements for 1907-1908, which affected the collection of advance fees. In the Bengal districts country spirits and ganja made up 81 per cent. of the total revenue, and opium only 18 per cent. In the Assam districts, on the other hand, opium alone represented 62 per cent. of the total revenue and country spirits and ganja yielded 22 per cent. and 14 per cent., respectively. Of the total current demand of Rs. 63,24,707, Rs. 63,16,236 (including Rs. 5,68,553 paid in advance in 1905-1906), or 99.87 per cent., were realized during the year. The proportion of expenditure to collection was 3.18 per cent.

Financial
Results.

402. Compared with the settlements for 1906-1907, the settlements for 1907-1908 showed a decrease of Rs. 23,876. Two noticeable improvements in the conduct of the settlements for the latter year were that the sales were, with one or two exceptions, held by the Collectors themselves, and that the shops were every where sold separately, except in one or two instances where good reasons existed for selling them in lots. On the whole, considering the prevailing high prices of the previous year and other circumstances the results of the settlements for 1907-1908 may be regarded as satisfactory.

Settle-
ments for
1907-1908.

403. There was no change during the year in the three systems in force, viz., the outstill, the central distillery and the contract distillery systems, except that the Moran and Lejai shops situated in the Lakhimpur district adjacent to the Sibsagar boundary were added to the contract distillery area. From the 1st April 1907, the whole of the Dibrugarh subdivision of the Lakhimpur district has been brought under the contract distillery system and the sanction of the Government has been obtained to its extension to the rest of the six plains districts of Assam from the 1st April 1908. Plans for the complete introduction of this system in all the plains districts of the province are under consideration.

Country
spirit.

404. The receipts from license-fees and from duty under the central distillery system showed an increase of 15.76 per cent. and 32.29 per cent., respectively. This result was due to the *swadeshi* movement in favour of locally-produced spirits in preference to foreign imported liquor. Samples of country spirits from the three central distilleries at Dacca, Bakarganj, and Faridpur were sent to the Excise Laboratory at Kasauli for analysis, which showed that, except in the matter of acidity, which was found to be too high, the liquor manufactured at these three distilleries was of good quality.

Central dis-
tilleries.

405. The country spirit revenue in Sibsagar under the contract distillery system rose from Rs. 1,30,922 to Rs. 1,93,773, showing an increase of Rs. 62,851 over the outstill and distillery systems, which were in force for the first and the last six months, respectively, of the preceding year. Of the total realisations, Rs. 74,284 represented license fees, Rs. 1,14,430 duty, and Rs. 5,059 distillery fees and water-cess.

Contract
distillery.

One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five gallons were issued at the strength of 20 U. P. and 1,10,551 at the strength of 60 U. P. The total issue to retailers in L. P. gallons amounted to 45,688 gallons. The total duty realized thereon was Rs. 1,14,221. The rate of duty, Rs. 2-8 per L. P. gallon, and the cost price to the contractors, Rs. 1-9 per L. P. gallon, remained the same as in the previous year. From April 1907, the prevailing rate of retail sale was 8 annas a bottle of 60 U. P. spirit. With the extension of area from April 1907, a revised contract was entered into with the distillers and the cost price of liquor for both the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur areas was fixed at Re. 1-14 per L. P. gallon.

The total expenditure on the distillery up to 31st March 1907 was Rs. 68,176. Against this may be set off Rs. 83,770 (Rs. 78,675 increase in revenue, and Rs. 5,095 distillery fees and water-cess). There was thus a net profit of Rs. 15,594 and

REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

the financial results were satisfactory. A scheme was sanctioned during the year for gravitating the spent *mohua* wash into settling tanks and another for improving the water-supply. Further plans for extensions and improvements to the buildings and plant of the distillery are in course of preparation. The grant of a bounty on *gur*, used in the distillery, will be discontinued from the 1st of April 1909. Rules for the management of distilleries under the contract system have been issued by the Board since the close of the year.

Altogether, the working of the Jorhat distillery has improved since the commencement of the year and it may be anticipated with confidence that it will be in thoroughly good working order by the end of the year. So far as the effect of this system on the consumer goes, the Excise Commissioner reports that it is impossible to say whether there has been an actual increase in consumption or not, as there are not figures for a complete year with which to compare the present year's issues, but it is certain that, as the result of constant inspection, the dilution of spirit is less commonly practised and that consumers can count on getting liquor at the strength and in the quantities they pay for. It is also satisfactory to notice that there was no complaint during the year of disturbances or scandalous scenes in the vicinity of liquor shops, and that the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar can report a general decrease of drunkenness throughout the district.

Out-stills. 406. The total number of outstills licensed fell from 554 to 506 and the total revenue from license fees from Rs. 13,41,355 to Rs. 13,32,807. There is said to have been some improvement in the management of out-stills and a diminution of drunkenness and disorder in the vicinity of those situated in the tea gardens of Assam. Due attention was paid to reasonable objections to the sites of out-stills by their closure or change of site.

Rum. 407. The total number of licenses for the sale of rum in Assam remained the same as in the last year, *viz.*, 9. There are no separate licenses in the Bengal districts.

Imported liquor. 408. Sales of imported liquor fell off considerably owing to the *swadeshi* movement. The number of licenses settled at the beginning of the year was 225, or only five less than in the previous year, but a number of these was afterwards surrendered, as losses were sustained by the holders through the abstention of the Bengalis from imported liquor, which became more and more general as the year went on. Vendors resorted to the expedient of selling a highly rectified imported spirit reduced and compounded in Calcutta as "Swadeshi Brandy" and, though a good deal of this was sold, it did not suffice to enable many shops to pay their way. The total receipts from license fees fell in consequence by Rs. 37,146. As, however, the Bengalis, who abstained from the use of imported liquors, transferred their custom to the country-liquor shops and a large increase in the consumption of country spirits was the consequence, this loss from license fees in the districts of the Dacca Division under the central distillery system was recouped by an increased revenue from duty. It may be doubted whether the actual decrease in the consumption of imported liquor was really as great as this falling off of license fees indicated.

Tari. 409. The total receipts from license fees for *tari* were slightly higher than last year (Rs. 26,436, against Rs. 26,242). The system of issuing season *tari* licenses from February to June in each year for the sale of both fermented and unfermented *tari*, which was sanctioned as an experimental measure in Dinajpur, was abolished during the year as these licenses were found to be unnecessary and unfair to the holders of annual leases for the sale of fermented *tari*.

Pachwai. 410. Licenses for the home brewing of *pachwai* increased by 303, chiefly in the districts of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Bogra, which the Excise Commissioner attributes in part to better supervision. The high price of rice tended to limit the consumption of the beverage, and, though more licenses were taken, fewer house tickets were issued under each headman's license, which resulted in some falling off in the amount of fees realized.

The plan for issuing *pachwai* licenses to the managers of tea gardens in Jalpaiguri proved a complete failure, and no garden took out a license.

Methylated spirits. 411. The rule which requires dealers in methylated spirits to take out a license was more strictly enforced, with the result that the licenses issued were 44 against 12 of the previous year.

Bhang, majum and charas. 412. The revenues from *bhang* and *majum* and from *charas* are unimportant items in this province. The revenue in license fees from the first two was Rs. 4,697 and from the third Rs. 1,568.

413. During the year only one variety of *ganja* was issued, viz., *chur*. The consumption declined by 268 maunds and the receipts fell from Rs. 17,72,030 to Rs. 16,56,554, the decline in the license fees being Rs. 11,310 and in duty Rs. 1,04,166. The decrease is attributed to the high price of food-grains.

The number of shops declined by 8 and of golahs by 5. Most of the golahs in the province are the private property of the goladars, but, in 8 of the Eastern Bengal districts and in Sylhet, Government warehouses have been wholly or partially provided. In Chittagong the construction of Government golahs was sanctioned towards the end of the year.

The total quantity of *ganja* exported was 5,749 maunds and the balance in store at the end of the year was 3,797 maunds. There was a decrease in exports of 1,160 maunds, due partly to the decrease in consumption in the province, and partly to the general substitution of *chur ganja* for flat *ganja*.

Wholesale prices rose during the year in an abnormal degree and in August and September a maund of round *chur* fetched Rs. 300. This provided a demand for the old *ganja* of 1904, which would ordinarily have been destroyed.

Considerable improvements were effected in the warehouses by introducing more systematic arrangements for storing each cultivator's stock separately, keeping the produce of different years separately on different shelves and the stock of each separate circle in separate golahs, with the account of each golah in charge of a separate clerk. This has economized space, expedited deliveries and done away with the necessity of having a purchaser's golah with a separate set of registers for depositing *ganja* during the process of its delivery. The space now available for storage is sufficient for 7,240 maunds, which is ample.

414. The total receipts from opium increased by Rs. 1,43,871 (Rs. 25,99,636; ^{Opium.} against Rs. 24,55,765), to which license fees contributed Rs. 17,433 and duty Rs. 1,26,438. Issues from the Government treasury rose by 110 maunds 25 seers. The increase was entirely in Assam, and nearly the whole of it (106 maunds 36 seers) in the Assam Valley districts, except Lakhimpur, where there was a decrease of 1 maund 16 seers. This, however, was nominal, as purchases were made by people of that district from the neighbouring shops in Sibsagar, where the price was cheaper.

The question whether the opium habit is on the increase, does not seem to require much discussion. In spite of the well-informed opinion which has been quoted to the contrary, it would be futile, in the face of the steady rise in issues since 1901-1902, to deny that the increased prosperity of these years following a decade of general depression, has led to a real increase in the opium habit, which requires a check. With regard to the classes among which the habit is spreading, the Board are inclined to agree with the Excise Commissioner that the tea-garden coolies have not been much affected. Tea coolies are a wage-earning class, and are adversely affected by the rise in the price of produce. They have consequently had less money to spend on luxuries. There are, however, a certain number of shops still, too near tea gardens, which should be removed. There seems to be evidence that the habit is spreading among the cultivating classes. This is stated to be the case in Kamrup and Darrang, and there is no doubt that it is spreading among the different hill people. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong states that the increase is very marked among Mikir Hill shops. A large number of opium shops has been closed from the commencement of the current year in some of the Assam districts, 80 in all, while the sites of 19 shops have been moved from the vicinity of tea gardens. More shops will be closed next year, if the enquiries, which are being made, show the necessity.

415. The question of the smuggling of opium into the Aracan division of Burma from and through Chittagong has, for a considerable period, been a most troublesome one. The restrictive system of issues in force in Chittagong has the effect not only of raising the price of the drug to the local consumer to an almost prohibitive figure, but also of making Chittagong the centre for the smuggling trade from other districts of this and other provinces into Burma. On the other hand, under the system of unrestricted issues, which formerly prevailed, most of the opium taken from the Chittagong treasury found its way into Burma. In order to devise means for the prevention of smuggling, a conference was, with the approval of Government, held at Akyab with the Burma authorities on the 6th March last. As a result of the conference it was agreed that the opium smuggling question should be thoroughly investigated by expert officers, and that there should be better co-operation between the preventive staffs of both provinces ^{Conference with Burma authorities.}

REVENUE
AND
FINANCE.

Cocaine. 416. By Notification No. 3144F., dated the 14th March 1907, cocaine was declared to be an intoxicating drug in Assam, within the meaning of the Excise Act, with effect from the 1st April 1907, thus bringing that portion of the Province into line with Eastern Bengal in this respect.

Offences
against
excise
and opium
laws.

417. The total number of persons arrested and brought to trial for offences against the Excise and Opium Laws was 665, of whom 547, or 82·3 per cent., were convicted.

The fines imposed and realised during the year, amounted to Rs 12,778, and Rs. 10,072, respectively. Rupees, 8,816 or 68·9 per cent. of the fines imposed, were distributed in rewards.

HILL DISTRICTS.

Country
spirit.

418. As in the preceding year, there were six country spirit shops with a revenue demand of Rs. 8,337, against Rs. 7,741 in 1905-06. The increase accrued in the Khasi and the Garo Hills only. The total collections rose from Rs. 7,706 to Rs. 8,452, the increase being due to the better settlement of the shops for 1906-07.

Imported
liquor.

419. Licenses for imported liquor decreased from seven to five, but the total demand rose from Rs. 1,932 to Rs. 2,430.

Ganja.

420. Six retail licenses, including one granted for the first time in Manipur, were issued. The arrangement under which ganja was issued from the treasury at Shillong was discontinued during the year, as the retail shop was settled at Rs. 270. The demand for the year on account of license fees was Rs. 3,184. There was an increase in the consumption of the drug by 63 seers, of which 16 seers occurred in the Khasi Hills, where there was an increase in the foreign population, who are ganja-smokers. The consumption in Manipur was 25 seers.

Opium.

421. Ten shops were settled during the year, including the one at Manipur, and a free license was issued to the Siem of Cherrapunji to cover sales at a shop at Bhola-ganj in his territories. The total demand on account of both license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 35,148, against Rs. 25,940 in the preceding year. The increase was obtained chiefly under duty, as the consumption of opium rose from 17 maunds 13 seers to 26 maunds 8 seers. Thirty-two seers of opium were consumed in Manipur. Issues in the Khasi Hills were 22 maunds 27 seers against 16 maunds 6 seers and this is attributed to the continuous increase of opium-eaters in the Bhoi country. The rate of increase is high, especially in so short a period as one year, and the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to make a special enquiry as to whether it was due to an influx of opium-eaters from other districts or to the spread of the opium habit among the indigenous population.

Miscellaneous.

422. No licenses for the sale of other exciseable articles were issued during the year. The *pachwai* shop at Kohima remained closed, as no offers were received for it.

There were altogether 15 prosecutions under the Excise and Opium Laws, exclusive of 17 cases in Shillong for breach of the Special Excise Rules in force in that station. Only one case was of any importance.

SECTION 6.—Stamps.

[See Statistics of the Stamp Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VII, Stamps.]

Stamp
Revenue.

423. The gross revenue collections under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 89,59,418, compared with Rs. 87,26,532 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 2,32,886. The increase occurred under both heads.

The total charges amounted to Rs. 2,45,838 against Rs. 2,21,463 in 1905-1906. The cost of stamps and plain paper supplied from the Central Depot was Rs. 1,76,239 against Rs. 1,65,130.

Judicial
stamps.

424. The sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 59,90,693 to Rs. 60,10,582. The largest increase was obtained in the Rajshahi Division, where a large number of civil and rent suits was instituted.

Non-judi-
cial
stamps.

425. Non-judicial stamps yielded an increased revenue to the extent of Rs. 2,09,592. The increase was shared by non-judicial stamps of all descriptions, excepting "Foreign Bill Stamps," "One-anna Receipt Stamps," "Notarial Stamps" and "Stamps for Legal Practitioners' Licenses." The revenue under the head "One-anna Receipt Stamps" fell from Rs. 59,122 to Rs. 1,241, owing to the discontinuance of the issue of separate stamps for revenue purposes and the substitution of unified stamps in their place by the Government of India Notification No. 5300Exc., dated the 21st

September 1905. The increase in the receipts on account of non-judicial stamps was contributed largely by "Impressed Stamps." This was due to the fact that a large number of bonds and mortgage-deeds were executed in consequence of the high price of food-grains and the distress which prevailed in parts of the province during the year. The increase in the sale of hundis or inland bills of exchange is attributed to the growth of trade in jute.

426. The number of vendors for the sale of stamps decreased by two, but the discount allowed exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 12,784. Stamp Vendors.

427. Of the cases to ascertain the correct valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration, 61·8 per cent. were enquired into. The proportion borne by the deficit duty realized to the amount originally paid was 33·9 against 90·9 in 1905-1906. Deficit duty.

428. The total number of cases dealt with by the civil courts fell from 1,207 to 1,202, and the amount of duty and penalty realized from Rs. 8,021 to Rs. 6,947. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 65 in the number of cases dealt with by the Revenue Officers, but an increase of Rs. 2,950 in the amount of duty and penalty realized. Punitive action of the Courts and Revenue officers.

There was an increase of 93 in the number of stamp prosecutions and of Rs. 347 in the amount of fines imposed.

SECTION 7—Income-Tax.

[See, Statistical Returns of the working of the Income-Tax Act, II 1886, in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906-1907; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

429. The number of persons finally assessed to income-tax increased from 16,566 to 17,404, of whom 1,819 were Government servants. The total demand was Rs. 8,84,342, of which Rs. 14,903 were due on account of penalties and arrears. The net collections amounted to Rs. 10,15,018, an increase of Rs. 78,530 as compared with the previous year. The outstanding balance under all parts of the Act was Rs. 12,900.

430. The following table shows in an abstract form the collections under the several sources separately, excluding penalties and fines:—

PART I.				Number of assesses.	Amount of tax. Rs.
Salaries, etc., paid by Government	...	...	...	1,819	1,47,991
Ditto paid by the local authorities	...	...	...	131	4,920
Ditto " paid by Companies, etc.	...	...	...		
section 9 (1)	...	...	...	1,636	1,24,738
Ditto paid by Companies, section	...	...	...		
9 (2)	...	...	...	604	36,123
PART II.					
Profits of Companies	...	...	...	35	4,655
PART III.					
Interest on securities	...	...	...		6,525
PART IV.					
Other sources	...	...	...	13,179	6,85,084
Total.	...	...	...	17,404	10,10,036
Total of previous year	...	...	...	16,566	9,32,190

431. The demand under the head "Penalties" was Rs. 4,125, of which Rs. 3,528 were realised. No fines were imposed by Magistrates. Fines and penalties.

432. Refunds made during the year amounted to Rs. 1,778. Refunds.

433. The expenditure incurred in the assessment and collection of the tax rose from Rs. 27,256 to Rs. 28,679. Expenditure.

SECTION 8.—Forest Revenue.

[See Progress Report of Forest Administration in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1903-1907.]

Financial
results.

434. The gross revenue from forests amounted to Rs. 13,09,430, and the expenditure to Rs. 7,10,734. The surplus (Rs. 5,98,746) shows an advance of Rs. 19,822, even allowing for the increase in outstandings. The result cannot be considered altogether satisfactory judged by the percentage borne by the surplus to the gross revenue. With the exception of Goalpara every division worked at a profit. The divisions showing the largest profits were Buxa (Rs. 1,17,686), Cachar (Rs. 1,04,489), Chittagong (Rs. 57,489), Garo Hills (Rs. 72,610), Jalpaiguri Rs. (84,890), Lakhimpur (Rs. 73,979), and Sylhet (Rs. 56,148). In nearly all cases these profits were due to the revenue derived from produce removed by purchasers and consumers and extensions to any considerable extent were only attempted in Buxa, Goalpara, and Kamrup. In Buxa and Kamrup these operations yielded a profit, and in Goalpara a loss. Financial considerations must be subordinated, to a large extent, to sylvicultural requirements, but these considerations cannot, in working the Department, be ignored, and the introduction of the system of sales to purchasers subject to the prescriptions of the working plan in place of exploitation by departmental agency, which has proved so successful in Jalpaiguri, might well be extended to other divisions.

(c) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 9.—Provincial Finance.

Year.				Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1				2	3	4	5
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1905-1906	...	...	...	24,79,973	2,35,36,372	1,98,16,345	06,20,000
1906-1907	...	...	...	62,00,000	2,35,32,166	2,35,83,333	61,48,833

435. A new financial settlement has been made with the new province for three years with effect from 1906-1907. The settlement was made for a short period, as it was considered undesirable to make a permanent arrangement at a time when the various departments of the new province were in the course of formation and development and a large outlay on buildings and establishments was necessitated by the transfer of the Eastern Bengal districts. The actual transactions of the transferred districts in the past were also not quite accurately known in some cases. In the revised settlement the principal heads of revenue and the corresponding charges have been divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, with the exception of Provincial Rates and Registration, which have been made entirely Provincial. Charges for large settlement operations and recoveries of their cost are Imperial, while the rest of land revenue charges are provincial, the charges for management of Government estates only being divided in moities.

436. The accounts of the provincial services started with a balance of Rs. 62,00,000 at the commencement of the settlement of which Rs. 12,00,000 is to be maintained as the minimum provincial balance and the remaining Rs. 50,00,000 was placed at the credit of the Provincial Government to augment its resources.

437. The budget for the year provided for expenditure leading to absorption of Rs. 13,78,000 from the opening balance, while the actual absorption was only Rs. 51,000. This was due mainly to an increase of Rs. 6,81,000 in Land Revenue receipts and a saving of Rs. 7,40,000 under Public Works expenditure. According to the terms of the Financial Settlement as originally proposed, a contribution of Rs. 6,23,000 (minus 4,25,000 for Civil and Military Police reforms) was to be made from Provincial to Imperial, but the settlement as finally sanctioned, after the budget had been passed, allowed an assignment of Rs. 4,85,000 from Imperial to Provincial. This increased the provincial share of Land Revenue by Rs. 6,83,000. The saving under Public Works was chiefly due to the fact that the provision for the new buildings at Dacca was not utilized. Provincial Revenues also increased under Stamps (85,000), Assessed Taxes (32,000), Registration (71,000), and other Public Works (7,000). Savings occurred under Police (1,44,000), Marine (79,000), Education (1,74,000), and Minor Departments (74,000); but these were counterbalanced by excess expenditure under "Courts of Law" (2,04,000), Jails (3,07,000), General Administration (47,000), and Contribution to Local (70,000).

SECTION 10.—Local Funds.

438. The following statement shows the receipts and charges of local funds in the province, including debt transactions, during the year 1906-1907 :—

Names of the Funds.				Receipts.	Expenditure.
Incorporated Local Funds—				Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	...	...	...	29,31,974	29,41,483
District Road Accounts Funds	...	...	...	19,818	19,172
Local Boards Funds	...	...	...	15,59,260	14,53,278
Inland Labour Transport Funds	...	...	...	50,808	50,875
District Chaukidari Reward Funds	...	...	...	26,549	24,022
Total	...	...	...	45,88,409	44,88,850
Excluded Local Funds—					
Municipal Union and Station Funds	...	...	...	8,79,646	8,79,048
Town and Bazar Funds	...	...	...	35,833	37,443
Pilgrims Lodging House Fund	...	...	...	2,918	2,975
Chittagong General Hospital Fund	...	...	...	15,317	19,957
Hospital Post Dues Fund	...	...	...	8,615	12,529
Cantonment Funds	...	...	...	19,346	19,304
Assam Williamson Education Fund	...	...	...	3,943	1,883
Mohsin Fund	...	...	...	45,160	45,160
Port Trust	...	...	...	10,01,761	9,53,825
Total	...	...	...	20,12,539	19,72,124
Total Local Funds	...	...	...	66,00,948	64,60,954

Incorporated Local Funds.—In the budget a deficit of Rs. 6,94,000 was estimated, while the actuals showed a deficit of only Rs. 3,06,000. This was chiefly due to larger contributions received from provincial revenues and to savings under Education (1,88,000), owing mainly to the fact that the Government contribution of Rs. 2,57,000 to District Funds for Primary School buildings was not being utilised. A saving of Rs. 1,32,000 occurred in the Public Works charges of the Assam Local Boards, but a small excess occurred under this head in the accounts of the District Funds in Eastern Bengal. The District Post Fund was abolished with effect from the 1st April 1906, from which date all postal charges were imperialized and the balance at the credit of the Fund, amounting to Rs. 1,49,000, was transferred to the Imperial Government in the accounts of the year 1906-1907. The Inland Labour Transport Fund had a debit balance of Rs. 2,000 at the close of the year which was met by a contribution from Provincial Revenues.

Excluded Local Funds.—The transactions of the Port Fund included Rs. 7,70,000 paid by the Government for the improvement of the Chittagong Port. The Fund had Rs. 1,55,194 in the Bank of Bengal, besides Rs. 44,114 in the Government Treasury and a fixed deposit of Rs. 1,30,787 in the Bank of Bengal on the 31st March 1907.

The Mohsin Endowment Fund Account for this province was separated from that of the main fund in Bengal with effect from 1st April 1906. A sum of Rs. 30,000 has been assigned as the annual contribution from the the Main Fund. The receipts from Madrasah amounted to Rs. 9,487 during 1906-1907, while the total expenditure was Rs. 45,160. The deficit of Rs. 5,673 was met by a contribution from Provincial Revenues.

The receipts and charges of the Cantonment Funds include Rs. 2,204 and Rs. 2,132, respectively, appertaining to the Buxa Duar Cantonment Fund, which banks with the Military Treasury Chest.

SECTION 11.—Road and Public Works Cesses.

[See Report on the Provincial Rates Operations for the revenue year 1906-1907.]

Rate, land
revenue de-
mand and
gross ren-
tal.
(a) Eastern
Bengal.

439. The road and public works cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on immovable property in all the districts of Eastern Bengal, excepting the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Act is not in force. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,23,87,890 and the valuation or gross rental amounted to Rs. 5,72,69,223.

(b) Assam.

440. In Assam the local rate was assessed at the rate of one anna per rupee of the annual value of all land. The current demand of land revenue was Rs 62,36,623. The assessment of local rate in the case of temporarily-settled estates was made on the annual land revenue assessment, and, in the case of permanently-settled estates, on the area or on the actual profits derived from them. In the case of revenue-free estates the valuation was arrived at by a calculation in which the area of the estate as well as the incidence of land revenue is taken into consideration.

Demands,
collections,
remissions
and bal-
ances.

441. The current demand of cesses in Eastern Bengal rose from Rs. 31,15,289 to Rs. 32,07,544, showing an increase of Rs. 92,255, which was mainly due to revaluations in the districts of Pabna, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Noakhali, Dacca, Faridpur and Malda. The total collections exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 1,24,512, and amounted to 100.47 per cent. of the total current demand. The remissions and reductions amounted to Rs. 15,179. The outstanding balance was Rs. 4,93,084 or 11.1 per cent. of the total demand, against 11.5 per cent. in the previous year.

In Assam, the current demand rose from Rs. 7,00,591 to Rs. 7,25,510, showing an increase of Rs. 24,919, which was due to revision of assesment and new settle-ments. The total collections, including advance payments, were Rs. 7,44,083 or 102.56 per cent. on the total current demand, against 103.48 in the previous year. The outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 84,862 or 10.6 per cent. of the total demand.

Working
of the cer-
tificate
procedure
in Eastern
Bengal.

442. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears fell from 18,249 to 16,688. The decrease was shared by the districts of Mymensingh, Chittagong, Tippera, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Bogra and Malda, and was mainly due to the fact that a considerable number of certificates for accumulated petty arrears were filed during the preceding year to avoid limitation. The remaining districts showed an increase. The cases disposed of exceeded the institutions in the districts of Tippera, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Malda.

In Assam, ordinarily the notice is issued in respect of both land revenue and local rates, but it occasionally happens (especially in the Zamindari areas) that local rates alone are in arrears. In that case separate processes issue for the local rates arrears. Coercive processes were issued for local rates arrears only in 643 cases.

Objections
against cer-
tificates.

443. The total number of objections filed and disposed of was 793 and 772, against 1,153 and 1,132, respectively, in the previous year. This decrease is out of proportion to the decrease in the number of cases instituted and is not entirely accounted for by the non-issue of certificates for petty arrears. No other explanation, however, has been furnished by Commissioners. In 144 cases the certificates objected to were cancelled on account of the death of judgment-debtors, double assessment, errors in the Land Registration Registers and wrong entries in the ledgers owing to the imper-fect information supplied by the parties in *challans*.

Stage of
procedure
at which
demands
were satis-
fied.

444. In Eastern Bengal, arrears were recovered in 4,832 cases on the mere issue of notices of demand, in 6,107 cases on the issue of notices for sale of defaulters' mov-able properties, and in 1,668 cases on the issue of notices for the sale of defaulters' im-movable properties. Of the total number of sale (299 against 219 in the previous year), 296 were set aside under Sections 20 and 21 of the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act I of 1895, as amended by Bengal Act I of 1897.

Of the 643 cases in Assam, arrears were recovered in 29 cases on the issue of demand notice and in 606 cases on the issue of attachment order.

Valuations
and reval-
uations.

445. The general revaluation of the district of Chittagong, sanctioned in the Gov-ernment order No. 3885F., dated the 26th March 1907, has been taken up from the 15th of April 1907. Four years have been estimated for the completion of this work. Revaluation on an extensive scale is in progress in the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara. The operations sanctioned for the Mymensingh district in the Government order No. 785M, dated the 3rd May 1907, could not be taken up during the year. The question of undertaking a general revaluation in the district of Bakarganj is under the considera-tion of the Board.

446. Eight hundred and three accounts were opened during the year in revenue-paying estates, the total number of such accounts at the end of the year being 29,488, with a cess demand of Rs. 4,68,144. In revenue-free estates six separate accounts were opened, and the total number at the close of the year was 190 with a cess demand of Rs. 7,318.

Separate
accounts
opened for
revenue-
paying and
revenue-
free estates
in Eastern
Bengal.

447. There was an increase of 639 in the number of revenue-paying estates and of 81 in revenue-free estates and a decrease of 1,359 in rent-free lands. The increase was due to the opening of separate accounts, partitions, the mutation of names and the addition of new estates. The decrease in rent-free lands was chiefly due to their amalgamation with the parent estates at the time of revaluation. The number of tenures assessed increased by 38,925 and of shareholders of estates and tenures by 30,346 and 68,294, respectively.

Estates
and, ten-
ures and
their re-
corded
sharehold-
ers in East-
ern Bengal.

448. The gross rental rose to Rs. 5,72,69,223 during the year showing an increase of Rs. 1,51,37,434 over the original valuation, and of Rs. 5,89,921 over that of the preceding year. The increase was chiefly due to valuations and revaluations.

Gross rental in East-
ern Bengal.

SECTION 12.—Education Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 13.—Municipal Revenues.

449. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8—Municipal Administration, Chapter III of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION I.—Vital Statistics.

[See Annual Sanitary Report of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam ; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIII.]

Price of food-grains and its connection with vital statistics.

450. The rainfall during the year was neither markedly excessive nor deficient, and it seems to have been evenly distributed over the land. Many of the districts, however, both in Eastern Bengal and Assam suffered from inundations.

In the report for 1905 mention was made of a rise in the prices of food-grains and of scarcity in Dacca, Bakarganj, Tippera, Malda and Mymensingh. These high prices continued throughout 1906. They extended over the whole province, and, in the districts of Dacca, Tippera, Bakarganj, Noakhali and in some parts of Faridpur and Sylhet, reached famine rates. The distress was most acute in June and July.

The rise in the prices of food-grains seems to have been only partially due to meteorological conditions and inundations. In some districts the scarcity was undoubtedly caused by heavy and prolonged floods at the time when the rice crop was growing ; but, in other districts, it seems to have been due either to excessive exports of grain, as in Barpeta and Dinajpur, or to heavy floods delaying its importation, as at Dacca and in the Garo Hills. In Tippera and Faridpur it is considered to have been partially due to a limitation of the area under rice cultivation, owing to an increase in the demand for jute and the high profits realised by its cultivation.

Whatever the causes of the scarcity might have been, there is no evidence that the high prices had any marked effect on the general health of the people. The provincial death-rate was approximately the same as that of the last five years, and the recorded death-rate from bowel complaints (diarrhoea and dysentery) was only slightly in excess of the decennial rate.

Area of registration.

451. As in the preceding year, ratios are calculated on a population of 29,812,735, certain areas, where registration is not attempted or is very imperfect, being excluded.

Births.

452. The provincial birth-rate for the year was 37·38. It was lower than either the rate of the previous year (39·3) or the quinquennial rate (39·63). The highest district birth-rate in the province was in Goalpara (45·94), though the rates in Noakhali and Malda approached it very closely (44·51 and 44·34). The lowest rate was reported from the Sylhet district (32·55).

Whether the fall in the birth-rate had any connection with the high prices of food-grains which prevailed during the last two years, it is impossible to say ; but it is interesting to note that two out of the three districts in which the birth-rate did not fall, *viz.*, Jalpaiguri and Chittagong, were the parts of the province in which the scarcity was least felt. On the other hand, with the exception of Sylhet, in which the scarcity was marked and in which the deficit was 2·29, all the districts in the Assam Valley and in Cachar, in which the scarcity was not so marked or so prolonged, reported a rise in the birth-rate.

Deaths.

453. The provincial death-rate for the year was 31·67. It was practically the same as the rate of the previous five years (31·66), but, compared with 1905 (35·06), it was considerably lower, the decrease being chiefly due to a diminution in the mortality from fevers. The highest records were in Goalpara (48·88), Darrang (47·84), Dinajpur (44·84) and Kamrup (43·74). The chief causes of mortality were fever (21·65) and cholera (3·63).

General accuracy of vital statistics.

454. Considerable attention was paid to the registration of vital statistics during the past year, especially within compulsory areas.

In the rural areas of Eastern Bengal and in the Surma Valley, the statistics, on the whole, give a fair idea of the prevailing conditions of life, and the figures, though not very accurate, are of value in comparing the vital occurrences of the different districts. The collecting agencies are as good as can be obtained at the present time.

In the rural areas in Assam, the Eastern Bengal chaukidari system does not exist. The system of collecting has recently been revised and the duty has been placed in the hands of the gaonburas who report to the mauzadars. It is too early at present to give any idea of the effect of the change on the returns.

In urban areas, however, where reporting is compulsory, the returns are very imperfect, and the machinery by which the collections are made varies so much in the different localities, that it is difficult to organise or control it.

From the 1st January 1908, district statistics in the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley will be compiled by Civil Surgeons, and not, as hitherto, in district and subdivisioal offices.

455. The provincial death-rate from cholera (3·63) was lower than that of the preceding year (4·77), but higher than the decennial average (2·45). In the early months of the year the cholera epidemic of 1905 continued in four of the Assam Valley districts. The cause in each case was the drinking of contaminated water. The Sanitary Commissioner considers that the continued high mortality from cholera in Kamrup is due to the want of good drinking water, and thinks that the people themselves are beginning to realise this. Mortality from chief diseases. Cholera.

456. The death-rate from fevers (21·65) was under the decennial average (23·55). The various drainage schemes are advancing. The Gaibanda project has been sanctioned, the District Board finding Rs. 6,000, while a grant of Rs. 10,000 has been made from Provincial revenues. The Chalan and Rangpur schemes are still with the Public Works Department. Fevers.

During the year a memorial was presented to the Local Government by the Duars Planters' Association, pointing out the prevalence of black-water fever, and asking that a special enquiry should be made. A preliminary enquiry was made by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and the Government of India have decided to have the subject completely investigated by the Central Research Institute.

457. The satisfactory decrease in mortality from *kalā-āzār* continued, and the disease is said to be rapidly disappearing from the Nowgong district. Kala-azar.

458. The death-rate from dysentery and diarrhoea (·90) was higher than the decennial ratio (·74) and the ratio of the preceding year (·85). The heaviest mortality was reported as usual from the tea districts of the Assam and Surma Valleys, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong and Darrang taking precedence. There is reason to believe that this peculiarity is also shared by the tea gardens in the Jalpaiguri district. Compared with the decennial average, a slight increase was also recorded in the rates of Dacca, Mymensingh, Tippera, Noakhali, Malda and Jalpaiguri, among the Eastern Bengal districts, which, with the last exception, were the districts affected by scarcity. Dysentery and diarrhoea.

459. There were three outbreaks of pneumonic plague, all due to importations from Calcutta. In the Pabna district there were 27 attacks and 24 deaths, while in Mymensingh there were in all 55 attacks and 59 deaths. Plague.

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[See Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on immigrant labour in the Assam districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1907.]

460. This section deals only with labour imported for employment on the Assam tea gardens, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal mines, and in certain saw-mills. Labourers employed on railways and those who migrate to the province during the cold weather for temporary employment, returning to their homes in April or May, are not included. Statistics relating to the immigrant labour of Eastern Bengal districts are also excluded. Statistics of the labour force.

The total strength at the close of the year was 684,208, showing an increase of 6,801 during the twelve months. The increase in the number of adults was 2,183 compared with 7,097 in the preceding year. The number of labourers employed under Act VI showed a further decline of 6,941; but the shortness was more than made up by an increase of 9,124 in the number of free labour adults employed. On the 30th June 1907 only 16·6 per cent. of the adult labour force was indentured under Act VI, the total number of that class employed having fallen during the last five years from 108,861 to 69,841. The sexes were equally divided in the total adult labour force, but while women comprised less than 45 per cent. of the Act labourers, they exceeded 51 per cent. of the non-Act labourers. The percentage of children to the total labour force increased slightly from 38·4 to 38·7.

461. The Assam Valley employed 61·25 and the Surma Valley 38·75 per cent. of the total labour force, but the percentage of Act labourers employed in the Surma Valley was only 2·5 of the total labour force indentured under Act VI. The Government of India have decided that the Act should be withdrawn from the Surma Valley and from the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara, and the Labour Committee consider that after a few years its withdrawal from the remaining districts in the Assam Valley should be possible. Distribution of the labour force.

462. The following statement gives details of the coolie immigration into the province during the past five years:—

Provincial
figures of
immigra-
tion.

Class of labourers.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Act ... { Sardari adults ...	7,988	5,031	4,196	5,482	3,060
Contractor's adults ...	6,088	6,095	2,863	3,961	2,949
Non-Act adults ...	6,123	6,643	11,986	15,252	14,034
Total of Act and Non-Act adults ...	20,199	17,769	19,050	24,695	20,043
Children ...	6,485	4,393	5,159	7,135	5,574
Grand total ...	26,684	22,162	24,209	31,830	25,617

In the Report of the preceding year reference was made to the concession granted by the railway companies for the conveyance of coolies, and to the arrangements made by the Local Government and the Government of Madras for the purpose of stimulating sardari recruitment. In November 1906 the Assam-Bengal Railway intimated that arrangements had been made for the through booking of tea garden coolies from stations on the Oudh and Rohilkhand, the East Indian, and the Bengal-Nagpur Railways. The falling off in the importation of labourers, despite the facilities afforded, is marked, and the ill success of sardari recruitment is disappointing. The demand for labour has in no way decreased, but the great obstacle to expansion is the competition of other industries in the labouring districts. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 4,652 in the total number of immigrants. The importations from Madras alone showed an increase, while those from Chota Nagpur, the Sonthal Parganas, and the Central Provinces showed the largest falling off.

Casualties
en route.

463. The number of deaths, which occurred during the journey, increased from 58 in 1905-1906 to 96, of which 12 occurred at Dhubri. Cholera accounted for 73 cases, but the mortality from this cause among the total labour force fell from 2,057 to 1,164.

Fraudulent
and irregu-
lar recruit-
ment.

464. Complaints of fraudulent recruitment increased from 74 to 89, the Lakhimpur district, in which the complaints rose from 25 to 55, being solely responsible for the increase. Fraud or irregularity was proved in only 21 cases, of which 15 occurred in the Lakhimpur district. In ten cases the coolies were repatriated at the expense of the garden concerned.

Repatria-
tion of
coolies.

465. Of one hundred and seventy-four coolies who were given the option of repatriation, 27 elected to remain on the garden, 132 returned to their homes, one died and four absconded. The cost of repatriation debitable to the Indian Labour Transport Fund was Rs. 109 against Rs. 552 in 1905-1906.

Working
of Act XIII
of 1859.

466. The district reports show that the working of this Act was on the whole satisfactory. Accurate figures are not available of the number of coolies employed under this Act, but greater recourse is being had to it year by year.

Wages of
Act labour-
ers.

467. The average rate of wage for men on the total labour force increased from Rs. 5-12-9 to Rs. 5-13-1, and for women from Rs. 4-11-10 to Rs. 5-0-2. The monthly average calculated on the daily working strength was Rs. 7-3-9 for men, and Rs. 6-8-0 for women, compared with Rs. 7-3-0 and Rs. 6-2-4 in 1905-1906.

Wages of
non-Act-
labourers.

468. The average wage earned by non-Act men, calculated on the total labour force, was Rs. 5-0-7, compared with Rs. 4-15-4 in 1905-1906. The average earnings of women rose from Rs. 3-9-2 to Rs. 3-11-10, and of children from Rs. 2-3-1 to Rs. 2-3-5. Calculated on the daily working strength, the average earnings of men were Rs. 7-2-1, of women 5-11-5, and of children Rs. 3-8-11. The returns indicate that non-Act coolies take full advantage of the leave granted them by managers to attend to their fields.

Birth-rate.

469. The birth-rate per mille, calculated on the total coolie population, was 28·3 compared with 29·2 in 1905-1906. It compares unfavourably with the provincial birth-rate, which was 37·38 on the total population and 122·7 on the adult female population. The birth-rates in the Darrang and Nowgong districts were particularly low.

470. For the total labour force the registered rate of mortality was 22·0 compared with 24·0 per mille in 1905-1906. There was a decrease in all districts, except Nowgong, where the rate rose from 21·2 to 22·9. The decrease occurred almost solely in deaths from cholera.

471. The number of time-expired coolies treated as in-patients in Government dispensaries increased from 448 to 510. Sick and destitute coolies.

In the two shelter huts in the Sylhet district at Fenchuganj and Karimganj, 37 persons were relieved, of whom 27 were *ex-tea* coolies, and 10 railway coolies. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 270.

472. Gardens are classed as unhealthy when the average mortality, either for the garden population as a whole or for the Act or non-Act population, taken separately, exceeds 7 per cent., and when the number of deaths from which the average is struck is not less than 10. The number of gardens on the unhealthy list for 1906-1907 was 8 of a total of 757 gardens, or 2 less than in the preceding year. The Burmacherra garden was on the unhealthy list for the third year in succession. The Nagrijuli and Modhupur gardens were on the unhealthy list in the preceding year. Cholera accounted for more than 30 per cent. of the deaths, the largest number of fatal cases occurring on the Modhupur, Nagrajuli, and Tingalibham gardens. The death-rate from anæmia or ancylostomiasis on two gardens in the Kamrup and Darrang districts was also high. Unhealthy gardens.

473. Only two complaints were preferred to Magistrates by coolies against their employers for ill-treatment, unconnected with re-engagement. One complaint was lodged in the Sylhet district and the other in the district of Nowgong, but neither was of any importance. Both cases were decided against the complainants. One case of ill-treatment in order to compel re-engagement was lodged by a coolie of the Nowgong district and was decided against him. Four hundred and fifty-two applications for discharge certificates were filed, compared with 518 in 1905-1906, certificates being granted in 251 cases against 297. Miscellaneous complaints (mainly under Act XIII of 1859) filed by coolies declined from 162 to 157. None of them were of any importance. Offences and prosecutions. Complaints by tea planters and garden coolies.

Cases in which managers were the complainants in criminal proceedings increased from 11 to 14, of which two were pending at the close of the year 1905-1906. In 11 cases coolies were charged with unlawful assembly or rioting and in three cases with assault or intimidation. On the whole, the relations between managers and their labourers were excellent, and it is a matter for congratulation that causes of friction lessen year by year.

474. The number of deserters decreased from 2,731 to 2,525. Two hundred and two deserters were punished with imprisonment, against 221 in the preceding year. Desertions.

475. The total number of gardens at the close of the year was 748. The district reports do not indicate clearly the number of gardens actually liable to inspection. Two hundred and eighty-four gardens were inspected during the year, and, of these, eleven were inspected twice. Inspection in the Darrang district appears to have been neglected, as only 6 of the 85 gardens on the register were inspected. Inspections.

476. Capitation fees realised amounted to Rs. 34,695-4-0 compared with Rs. 38,594 in the preceding year. The outstandings were only Rs. 360. Capitation fees.

477. The area of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies in the province increased from 1,31,016 acres to 1,39,827 acres. In addition to land held direct from Government, a good deal of land is held throughout the province by coolies as sub-tenants of raiyats or *mirasadars* or of the gardens on which they are employed. No details of the extent of these holdings are available. Colonisation of ex-tea garden coolies.

478. The receipts of the Inland Transport Fund in Bengal and in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the financial year 1906-1907, including a Provincial grant of Rs. 1,502 and an opening balance of Rs. 67, amounted to Rs. 59,364, against Rs. 57,495 in the preceding year, and the disbursements to Rs. 59,364, against Rs. 64,958. Inland Labour Transport Fund.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[See Dispensary Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIV.]

479. The total number of dispensaries (excluding the Railway, the police and the private non-aided institutions) at the beginning of the year was 331 and at the end 336. Four new dispensaries were opened by District Boards. Number of Dispensaries.

VITAL
STATIS-
TICS
AND
MEDICAL
SERVICE.

Attendance.

480. The total number of patients treated was 3,024,893 or 4·2 per cent. more than in the previous year. As the year 1906 was healthier than its predecessor, this increase in attendance would seem to indicate that the dispensaries are growing in popularity. At the purely female dispensaries at Dacca, Comilla and Mymensingh, the number fell from 13,557 to 12,462, owing, it is reported, to the fact that each of the three lady doctors in charge had leave in the course of the year.

Of the total number of patients treated, 45·2 per cent. were Hindus, 49·4 per cent. were Muhammadans, 0·1 per cent. were Europeans and Eurasians, while 5·3 per cent. belonged to other classes.

The total number, of in-patients rose from 21,714 to 24,575 and the, daily average from 946 to 1,014. The increase was most marked at Dacca, Mokokchang Jalpaiguri and Mymensingh. The Nagas round Mokokchang are learning by experience to appreciate the dispensary treatment. The death-rate among in-patients was 9·28 per cent. (against 9·22 per cent. in 1905) of cases treated, but, if we omit the figures for paupers and destitute coolies, the provincial case mortality would amount to only 8·5 per cent. The number of beds available increased by 25 for males and by 15 for females. The in-patient ward opened at Haflong in 1905 is increasing in popularity.

The number of out-patients increased during the year by 4 per cent. and numbered 3,000,318. Seventy per cent. of these attended personally. Of the total number treated, 66·3 per cent. were men, 12·4 per cent. women, and the rest were children. The number of women attending the dispensaries increased by 7,367. The floating dispensary on the river Kumar in the district of Faridpur proved a failure and was closed.

Diseases.

481. As in former years, diseases of the skin caused the largest number of admissions, 21·67 per cent. of the total number treated. Worms and malarial fever (including cases of the *kalā-azār*) came next with 15·70 and 13·63 per cent. The other diseases showing many admissions were diseases of the digestive system, ulcers, and diseases of the respiratory organs. Admissions from small-pox were greater, and from cholera less, during the year.

Surgical
operations.

482. The total number of surgical operations performed in the dispensaries was 74,156, of which 3,019 were selected operations against 2,675 in 1905.

Police,
railway and
private
non-aided
dispensaries.

483. During the year 37,994 were treated in the 53 police hospitals and 551 operations were performed.

Three Public Works Department hospitals were in operation, one in the Naga Hills, one in connection with the special works at Jorhat, and one in connection with the building of the Dacca College. Seven thousand one hundred and sixty-one patients were treated in them.

At the 37 railway dispensaries 1,002 in-patients and 113,701 out-patients were attended to and 1,741 operations were performed.

The total number of in and out-patients in the private non-aided dispensaries was 1,243 and 568,154, respectively. The operations performed were 13,984.

Financial
position of
dispensaries.

484. The total income of the dispensaries from all sources amounted to Rs. 7,27,703, of which Rs. 1,67,316, or 23 per cent., was contributed by Government and Rs. 2,96,078 from local and municipal funds. Subscriptions from private individuals increased from Rs. 78,102 to Rs. 81,098. The total expenditure (including the permanent investments) was Rs. 5,76,709 and the closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 4,16,301.

Sylhet Le-
per Asylum.

485. There were 16 lepers in the Sylhet Asylum at the beginning of the year and thirty-two were admitted during the year, making a total of 48 against 32 in 1905. At the end of the year, there were 21 inmates. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 1,569 to Rs. 2,023 owing to the extraordinary high price of food-stuffs.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[See Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XV.]

Number
of Asy-
lums.

486. The two lunatic asylums of the province are situated at Dacca and at Tezpur.

Number
of lunatics.

487. The number of inmates in the two asylums, on the 1st January 1906, was 425, of whom 349 were males and 76 females. During the year 147 were admitted, 72 were discharged and 28 died. The number remaining at the close of the year was thus 472 against 425 in 1905. Of the total asylum population (572), 283 (against 264 in 1905)

were criminal lunatics and the rest were non-criminals. The percentage of criminal lunatics to the total admissions was 56·52 in the Dacca and 29·09 in the Tezpur Asylum.

Causes of
Insanity.

488. As in previous years, mania was the chief form of insanity. Of the total admissions (147), 103 were so classed, while melancholia, the next most frequent type, accounted for 26. In 36 cases the disease was ascribed to physical causes, in 28 to moral causes and, in the remainder, the causes were unknown.

Health of
Inmates.

489. The number of admissions to hospital was 193 and the number of deaths only 28. In the province and in each of the asylums the daily average number of sick, as well as the percentages of deaths to daily average strength and to admissions, was lower than in the preceding year. The chief causes of death were tubercle of the lungs, dysentery and diarrhoea, anæmia and exhaustion of mania.

Accom-
modation.

490. There was over-crowding in both the asylums. In the Dacca Asylum a tubercle ward is under construction, which, when completed, will relieve the pressure and admit of the segregation of tubercle cases. In the Tezpur Asylum another male ward, in addition to the one under construction, is being arranged for.

Expendi-
ture.

491. The total expenditure, less the amount received from paying patients, was Rs. 48,773 against Rs. 42,157 in 1905. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 105 at Dacca and Rs. 110 at Tezpur against Rs. 97 and 99, respectively. The increase was due mainly to the high price of food-grains.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[See Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1906.]

Municipal
income and
expendi-
ture.

492. The total income of the municipalities, stations, unions and towns in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year amounted to Rs. 15,99,511 (including the opening balances), which shows an increase of Rs. 56,510 on the receipts of the previous year.

The total expenditure on sanitary purposes was Rs. 8,88,217, against Rs. 8,39,618. Of this sum, Rs. 3,63,172 were spent on "Conservancy," Rs. 45,613 on "Drainage," and Rs. 77,151 on "Water-supply."

Compared with the preceding year, there was a rise in expenditure under all the important heads of Sanitation, with the exception of "Treatment of the Sick," in which there was a decrease of Rs. 13,958.

Sanitary
Works.
(a) Muni-
cipal.

493. The Dacca Conservancy scheme has been approved and the water-works and drainage schemes for that town are under preparation; a project to supply the inhabitants of Narainganj with filtered water from the Lakhia river has been sanctioned and is now under construction; the new water-works at Gauhati have been supplied with a new pump, as the former one did not prove to be powerful enough to force the water from the river up on to the filter beds at the top of the adjoining hill; while schemes for improving the water-supply of Chittagong, Barisal, Chandpur, Rampur-Boalia, Sibsagar, Silchar and Jorhat are under consideration.

(b) Sani-
tation in
Municipal-
ties other
than head-
quarter
towns.

494. The water-supply of the smaller municipalities is taken from wells, reserved tanks and rivers; but their income is so small, that filtration and distribution in pipes is impossible. The conservancy in these municipalities is not satisfactory, even where Part IX of the Bengal Municipal Act (III of 1884), which arranges for the cleansing of private latrines, is in force. The defect is partly due to the inaccessibility of many of the existing latrines, and partly to the ignorance of the supervising staff of any method of checking the work of the sweepers. The amount of the night-soil which is removed is invariably much below the estimated out-put of the population served. The only means of disposing of the collections in the small towns is by trenching. This is in various stages of evolution.

(c) District
and Local
Boards, etc.

495. Among the more important sanitary works carried out by these Boards was the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas, and in mufassal villages. In accordance with the Resolution in the Municipal Department, No. 3886F., dated the 5th May 1906, a sum of Rs. 22,000 was placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board for distribution as grants-in-aid for the improvement of the village water-supplies, on condition that the District and Local Boards contributed an equal share, and that the villagers provided the remaining one-third either in cash or in free labour. The progress reports of the District and Local Boards were not received till after the close of the year; but the Sanitary Commissioner was satisfied that in many of the districts considerable interest is being taken in the subject.

VITAL
STATIS-
TICS
AND
MEDICAL
SERVICE.
Village
sanitation.

496. Many of the District and Local Boards are beginning to spend a larger percentage of their income on village sanitation, apart from the sums allotted for the improvement of the water-supply. There is also a growing feeling among the Boards that Sanitary Inspectors should be appointed to bring them more in touch with the requirements of their districts and to help them to deal with outbreaks of epidemic diseases. It is very desirable that each district should have one or more of these Inspectors; but they are likely to prove expensive, and their recommendations will not carry much weight, unless they have had some form of training in the general principles of Sanitary Science. It might be possible in the future to organise a corps of Inspectors, and to give them a preliminary training at one of the Provincial medical schools.

A considerable demand has arisen in the Eastern Bengal districts for pamphlets or leaflets on the cause and prevention of fever, cholera and other epidemic diseases. Samples will be prepared and distributed to the District Boards for printing.

Sale of
quinine.

497. In the Assam and Surma Valley districts, the system of distributing pice-packets of quinine from central stations was abolished in 1905, and depôts were opened at each headquarter station under the direction of the Civil Surgeon. The price of the drug was reduced so as to encourage the retail agents by allowing them to make a larger profit on their sales, and the number of recognized agents was increased by including, with the post masters, the village school masters, mauzadars, gaonburas and vaccinators. There was a satisfactory increase in the sale of pice-packets of quinine, and a further increase is to be expected. There is still room for much extension, especially in the districts where malarial fever is most prevalent.

Bacteriolo-
gical Labo-
ratory.

498. A small bacteriological and general laboratory for the Sanitary Department has recently been sanctioned by the Government. It is to be temporarily located in one of the rooms attached to the Dacca Medical School, and will form the basis of a future provincial laboratory.

Sanitary
Board.

499. Five meetings of the Board were held during the year and several important subjects regarding sanitation, such as the drainage of unhealthy areas and the improvement of unhealthy areas, etc., were dealt with. Rules which will enable that body to take the initiative in schemes of improvement are under consideration, and the Government of India have been asked to sanction the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer for the province.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[See Vaccination Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the season 1906-1907; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI].

Total num-
ber of ope-
rations.

500. The total number of vaccinations during the year was 1,318,032, of which 1,262,029 were primary and 56,003 were secondary. This total, though less than that of the previous year by 110,994 operations, is still above the average of the last decade by 118,223.

Percentage
of success-
ful cases.

501. The paid and licensed vaccinators performed 1,222,019 primary and 54,133 secondary operations, of which 1,194,729 primary, or a percentage of 98.57, and 37,370 secondary, or a percentage of 71.66, were successful. It is estimated that, on an average, 881 operations were performed by each paid, against 1,071 by each licensed, vaccinator. The Dispensary establishment performed 23,907 primary and 1,695 secondary operations. Of the former, 97.89 per cent., and of the latter 83.08 per cent., were successful. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-one operations, of which all but 71 were primary, were performed on tea-gardens, and 98.28 per cent. were successful. On the railways 407 operations were done, of which 303 were primary with a successful percentage of 92.64 and 104 were secondary. In all, the number of successful operations in 1906-1907 was 1,272,484. The average number of persons successfully vaccinated during the last five years was 1,275,665.

Protection
of infants.

502. Out of 9,646 children available for vaccination within compulsory areas, 6,627 were successfully vaccinated. Both in Dacca and in Chittagong the figures were unsatisfactory, but the most marked deficiency occurred in Nawabganj (Malda), where there was considerable opposition from the Ferazi Muhammadans, who constitute a large portion of the population.

Composi-
tion and
strength of
the Inspe-
cting Agen-
cy.

503. The scheme combining the Assam with the Eastern Bengal inspecting staff into a Provincial Service was approved by the Local Government and came into force from 1st April 1907. The cadre will be increased by 10 officers to allow of better supervision in the Assam and Surma Valley districts, and to provide for temporary losses on account of leave and sickness.

Hitherto the inspecting staff has mostly been recruited from the ranks of the paid or licensed vaccinators. Their educational qualifications, however, are not sufficient to enable them to perform their work efficiently, and, as they are usually of many years service when they are selected for promotion, they can rarely serve to qualify for a pension. It has, therefore, been decided that no vaccinator will be promoted to the inspecting staff unless he is below the age of 25 years, and unless he possesses a sufficient knowledge of English to read printed circulars and to compile his Registers.

504. Of the total number of persons vaccinated during the past season by the Departmental officers and Dispensary establishments, 78,841 were inspected by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, or by Civil Surgeons, and 1,162,321 by Indian Superintendents, or other inspecting officers. The percentages of cases found to be successful by the former were 96·71 primary and 61·44 secondary, and those by the latter 97·06 primary and 60·41 secondary. The vaccinators themselves reported that 97·76 of their primary and 69·32 of their secondary operations had been successful.

Verification
by Inspect-
ing offi-
cers.

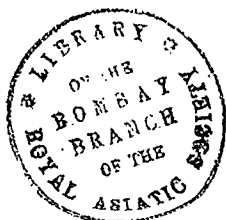
505. The number of deaths from small-pox was 7,534 or ·24 per thousand of population. The ratio during the previous five years was ·30. The rate was highest in Kamrup (3·34), Darrang (1·79) and Goalpara (1·22).

Mortality
from small-
pox.

506. The total number of tubes loaded with vaccine virus at the Vaccine Depot was 848,408. Nine hundred and forty-eight calves were vaccinated and vaccine was taken from 781. Arrangements are being made to supply the whole province with glycerinated vaccine during the ensuing season, and to discontinue arm-to-arm and calf-to-arm vaccination.

Vaccine
Depot.

507. The total cost of the Department during the year was Rs. 90,635, of which Rs. 62,102 was paid from Provincial funds, Rs. 21,845 from Local funds, Rs. 4,692 from Municipal funds, while Rs. 1,995 was contributed by the Manipur State. The average cost of each successful vaccination was 1 anna two pies.

Cost of the
Depart-
ment.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION I.—General System of Public Instruction.

[See General Administration Report for 1905-1906, part II, pages 185-190.]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[See Report on the Progress of Education in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the years 1901-02—1906-07; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section X.]

Inspecting
Agency and
Professorial
staff.

508. A scheme was sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in March 1906 for considerably strengthening the inspecting agency of Bengal as it stood prior to the partition. It has been proposed to distribute these appointments between that province and the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the following proportion :—

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.
Inspectors	6*	3†
Assistant Inspectors	7	7
Deputy Inspectors	24	26
Sub-Inspectors	111	49
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	69	31

When funds permit of the scheme being brought into full operation, a much needed relief will be afforded. Little or nothing has, however, yet been done for the inspection of girls' schools and for the general encouragement of female education. There is admittedly a large scope for female agency in this direction, and, until one or two Inspectresses are appointed, the inspecting staff of the province cannot be said to be complete. The question of increasing the professorial staff of the colleges also demands attention. This is a subject on which the Commission appointed by the University of Calcutta in 1906 has laid much stress.

Provincial,
Subordina-
te and Low-
er Subordi-
nate Edu-
cational
Services.

509. Effect was given during the year to the scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India for the reorganization of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services. These services have now been put on a satisfactory basis, and will, it is hoped, attract the best students of our University.

Statistics
as to Edu-
cation ge-
nerally.

510. The number of educational institutions in the province increased during the year, from 25,567 to 25,846, and that of pupils from 792,987 to 815,579. Of these institutions, 22,135 with 749,687 pupils were public, and 3,711 with 65,912 pupils were private. The percentage of male pupils to male population of a school-going age was 31·5 and of female pupils 3·5 per cent. The total of Hindu pupils fell from 362,950 to 358,141 and their proportion to the whole number in public institutions from 49·6 to 47·3 per cent. The number of Muhammadan pupils, on the other hand, increased from 398,370 to 425,840, and, proportionally to the total, from 50·2 to 52·2 per cent. The number of Hindu boys and girls at school was 20·7 per cent. of Hindu children of a school-going age, but the ratio in the case of Muhammadan boys was only 15·9.

Financial.

511. The total expenditure on direct and indirect education was Rs. 51,81,440, against Rs. 48,18,461 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,62,979, or 7·5 per cent. The distribution of expenditure during the past two years was as follows :—

Sources from which expenditure on education was met.	1905-1906.		1906-1907.	
	Amount.	Proportion to total cost.	Amount.	Proportion to total cost.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Provincial Revenues	11,20,706	23·3	13,28,123	25·6
District Board and Local Board Funds	10,69,707	22·2	11,78,596	22·8
Municipal Funds	29,288	0·6	31,933	0·6
Fees	18,66,415	38·7	18,55,629	35·8
Other sources	7,32,345	15·2	7,87,159	15·2
Total	48,18,461	100·0	51,81,440	100·0

* (4 in the Indian Educational Service and 2 in the Provincial Education Service.)

† (2 in the Indian Educational Service and 1 in the Provincial Education Service.)

To the expenditure on collegiate education Government contributed 48·2 per cent. of the whole, to that on secondary education 10·7 per cent., and to that on primary schools 3·5 per cent. The gross expenditure on female education was not quite 2·4 per cent. of the total expenditure on education of all kinds. Of this sum, Government contributed 25·4, District and Local Board Funds 44·2, and Municipal Funds nearly 5·6 per cent. Government contributed 60·5 per cent. of the amount disbursed as scholarships. The cost of educating each pupil in arts colleges was Rs. 146·0, in professional colleges (Law) Rs. 47·0, in secondary schools Rs. 13·5, and in primary schools Rs. 2·6.

512. Not only as Chairmen of the District or Local Boards, but also as local authorities in intimate touch with the people, the District and Subdivisional Officers have an important duty to fulfil towards education in general and primary education in particular. This principle is recognised in both portions of the province. Indeed, in Assam, inspection of schools by these officers has been declared to be as much a part of their tour-programme as any other work which they have to do in camp (*See Article 224 of the Assam School Manual*). That they are quite alive to their responsibilities in the matter is clear from the reports of the Inspectors, which show that they inspected a number of schools, both secondary and primary, in most of the districts and took a considerable amount of interest in all educational matters. Their co-operation is essential to foster and encourage the cause of education, and, to secure it, definite instructions for the guidance of educational officers were laid down during the year.

Work of
Executive
Officers.

513. Each Board has under it an Educational Sub-Committee, consisting of selected members, where, in the first instance, all questions affecting education are discussed before being submitted to the Board for final orders. The report of the Rajshahi Division makes no mention as to the meeting of these committees. In the other divisions, they appear to have been mostly, as in the last year, less frequent than is desirable.

Work of
Education-
al Sub-
Commit-
tees.

514. In Eastern Bengal there are now committees for all aided and unaided high, middle and upper primary schools. The committees for upper primary schools are merely nominal; for eligible members are not, as a rule, available in the localities in which they are situated. The committees for middle schools are hardly better, all powers being exercised by the head master and the Secretary. The committees for high schools, however, exercise a considerable amount of control over the affairs of the school. These committees are reported to have worked satisfactorily in the Rajshahi and the Chittagong Divisions, but in the Dacca Division there is a serious tendency, remarks the Inspector, among the members to ignore departmental authority and advice.

School
Commit-
tees.

There are now similar committees for all schools in Assam although the committees of Government and unaided high schools are not yet in working order. They are all of recent origin; and it is too early to pronounce an opinion on them. But the Inspector of Assam Valley thinks that they are of some practical value.

515. There are eleven arts colleges in this province, four of which are State and seven private. Two facts stand out for notice in connection with these colleges: (i) in none of them is there any invested endowment of any magnitude, save in the Rajshahi College, which is partially maintained by the munificence of local zamindars; and (ii) not a single private college is in receipt of State aid; nor, so far as can be ascertained, has any of them received capital subventions. It should be noted that no part of the Imperial allotment of Rs. 1,05,000 for the improvement of colleges (other than State institutions) was thrown out during the year, though dispositions for doing so were commenced. The number of students attending Arts Colleges fell from 1520 to 1197, while the average daily attendance declined from 1,419 to 1,057. The total direct expenditure on collegiate education, however, increased by Rs. 24,587.

Arts Col-
leges.

There were, on the 31st December 1906, 781 students reading in the second year class. Of these, 748, the smallest number since 1901-02, were presented at the F. A. Examination, and 278 were successful, giving a percentage of 35·6, which has not been exceeded during the quinquennium except in 1901-02 and 1903-04 when it rose to 37·5 and 38·3, respectively. Students reading in the fourth year class numbered 232, of whom 230 were presented at the B. A. Examination and 41 passed, being a percentage of 17·6 against 20·7 in 1905-06, 30·9 in 1904-05 and 12·6, 17·7 and 19·9 in each of the three preceding years. In the M. A. Examination six candidates appeared but none passed. These fluctuations in the examination results are worth noticing. Their outstanding features are:— (i) the failure of the M. A. class and (ii) the higher percentage of passes in the F. A. over that in the B. A.

INSTRUC-
TION.

Examination. "The first," observes the Principal of the Dacca College, "can partly be attributed to the insufficiency of the staff in the M. A. classes, and partly to the want of any inducements such as scholarships to post graduate study. As regards the poor result of the B. A. Examination, these must continue so long as all our first division candidates in the F. A. are allowed to take their scholarships away to Calcutta colleges."

High
Schools.

516. The number of high schools remained unaltered during the year, but the total number of pupils declined from 48,774 to 47,130. This decline, which was almost general throughout the province, was due, in Eastern Bengal at least, partly to the political agitation carried on among a section of the Hindu community which led to the establishment of "National Schools" in different parts of the country, but chiefly to the fact that the supply of high schools is, in many localities, in excess of the demand. The average attendance was 82·6 in State, 79·2 in aided, and 80·1 per cent. in unaided schools. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 9,46,946. In Assam, the average cost of educating each pupil was, in State schools, Rs. 27·6, in aided schools, Rs. 25·6 and in unaided schools Rs. 20·4. In Eastern Bengal, the total cost in corresponding kinds of schools was Rs. 42·8, Rs. 18·4, and Rs. 15·8. Out of the total number of candidates, 1,811, who presented themselves for the Entrance Examination in 1906-07, 1,119, or 62 per cent., were successful, 187 being placed in the first division, 595 in the second, and 337 in the third division. The percentage of successful candidates was in—

		State schools.	Aided schools.	Unaided schools.
Eastern Bengal	...	67·9	58·5	59·7
Assam	...	82·0	51·3	62·5

Middle
English
Schools.

517. Of the secondary schools, middle English schools seem to be the most popular. Their number increased during the year by 13 and their pupils by 2,845. This increase, which was common to all the divisions with the exception of the Assam Valley, appears to be due to the fact that the lower classes of high schools, as at present organised, are unpopular.

Middle Ver-
nacular
Schools.

518. The middle vernacular schools, on the other hand, declined from 434 to 420, and, although the pupils attending them increased slightly during the year, their number has fallen steadily since 1896-1897 from 32,011 to 24,401. This result is due partly to a desire on the part of the parents to give their children an English education, but chiefly to the fact that a purely Vernacular education offers little or no prospects to a youth in life at the present day.

Primary
School.

519. The following table compares the statistics of primary schools for boys for the last two years :—

		Upper Primary.		Lower Primary.		Total.		Attendance.
		Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	
1905-1906	...	2,281	100,528	15,349	446,791	17,630	547,319	402,037
1906-1907	...	2,218	102,070	15,313	458,641	17,531	560,711	415,279

Expenditure on primary schools increased from Rs. 15,27,498 to Rs. 15,98,363, or by Rs. 70,865. The cost per pupil in an upper primary school averaged, in Eastern Bengal, Rs. 3·3 and, in Assam, Rs. 6·6, and that in a lower primary school Rs. 2·2 in Eastern Bengal and Rs. 3·5 in Assam. The average annual cost of maintaining a lower primary school was Rs. 53·0 in Eastern Bengal and Rs. 1,172·0 in Assam. Each school in Eastern Bengal had on the average 27 and, in Assam, 34 pupils.

The condition of primary education, though it has recently been improved in Assam, is highly unsatisfactory in Eastern Bengal. Dispositions have now been made for the expenditure, upon both capital and recurring objects, of the Imperial grant of 3½ lakhs. The inspecting staff will be strengthened, the facilities for training gurus increased and rendered more efficient. Encouragement will be given to girls reading in mixed schools and to the importation of secular studies into makhtabs. An experiment will be tried with the introduction of a little optional urdu into schools where circumstances seem favourable. And last, but most important, a number of school-houses are to be erected and schools maintained in them, under the close control of the Boards, which will gradually spread over the face of the country a network of model primary schools.

Chap. VII.

INSTRUC-
TION.Instruction
in teach-
ing.

520. One of the urgent requirements of the province is some adequate provision for the training of teachers, both male and female. Two officers (a principal for the contemplated Training College and a head master for the practising school) have been recruited in England; and it is hoped to start the college within a very short time. There were 51 training institutions at the end of the year, as against 49, *viz.*, 48 State and 3 aided schools. Pupils attending them decreased from 1,218 to 1,102, but the total cost increased from Rs. 73,874 to Rs. 77,846. In addition to this, 234 pupils were trained under the apprentice system in the Surma Valley and in the Assam Valley. Out of the total number of 1,697 stipend-holders, 456 passed out during the year. The cost per trained teacher (excluding the non-stipendiary students) was Rs. 14.5.

Medical
Schools.

521. The number of students attending the Dacca Medical School and the Berry-White School at Dibrugarh remained stationary—a slight decrease at Dibrugarh having been compensated by a slight increase at Dacca. There were during the year 24 male and 4 female scholarship-holders at Dacca, and 19 Muhammadans were half-supported from the Mohsin Fund. At the Berry-White School 16 students held scholarships, and 24 were free students. Fifty-five out of eighty students presented at the second license examination from Dacca and Dibrugarh were successful, representing 58 and 86.66 per cent. of the examinees, respectively. The Dacca school cost Rs. 30,046 and the Berry-White school Rs. 25,108.

Engineer-
ing
Schools.

522. A new building has been erected for the Dacca School of Engineering on a suitable site and is being provided with furniture, apparatus, etc. At the same time, to enable the school to work on advanced lines, a European Head Master, a European Foreman and teachers on higher rates of pay have been appointed. The number on the rolls during the year was 304 against 289 in the previous year. The majority of these students are Hindus; but the Muhammadans are steadily increasing. In 1904-05 their number was 18; in 1905-1906 it increased to 27, and now it stands at 29. The number of Muhammadans would probably have increased faster had there been special stipends or concessions for them to join this institution. Of 62 pupils who appeared in the Sub-Overseer Examination, 41 were successful, and of 22 who appeared in the Overseer Examination, 22 were successful. In the Aminship Examination 54 passed out of 77 presented, and, in the Survey Final Examination, 35 out of 39. Expenditure rose from Rs. 36,941 to Rs. 37,639, of which Rs. 29,235 was met from Provincial revenues. The cost per pupil was Rs. 123.8.

The Ahsanullah School of Engineering has proved highly popular, and, already housed as it is in magnificent class rooms and a commodious hostel which form part of the great group of buildings which will eventually comprise the Dacca College, it may be expected to have a brilliant future before it. Steps are being taken to add the course for the Foreman Mechanics' Certificate; and it is perhaps not too optimistic to look forward to the time when an Engineering Department will be superimposed.

" B " Clas-
ses.

523. There are now seven schools with " B " classes attached to them. The number of students who attended these classes during the year was 114 and the number who passed the " B " Final Examination was 14.

Technical
Schools.

524. Parallel with the first two years of the Dacca School of Engineering and led up to by the " B " classes, there are four schools, under District Boards in Eastern Bengal, which are affiliated up to the Sub-Overseer or the Artizan standard of the Sibpur Engineering College. There are also two schools of similar character, but not yet affiliated, at Mymensingh and at Rampur Boalia. All these six schools contain also Amin classes, and, in the case of Rampur Boalia, a sericulture and a weaving class. Besides these, there is a weaving school at Malda and also a private school for teaching tinning, jewellery, etc., in Chittagong. There were, during the year, 476 pupils in all these kinds of schools, of whom 48 passed the Final Artizan Examination and 37 the Sub-Overseer Examination.

Appren-
ticeships.

525. Apprentices are received in the workshops of the Assam Bengal Railway at Pahartali near Chittagong and in those of the Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tezpur Railways. Eighty-one lads are being trained in the former and 15 in the latter.

Commer-
cial Edu-
cation.

526. Commercial education cannot be said to have made much progress in this province. " C " classes have been opened in the Dacca School of Engineering and in the Pabna Zilla School, but the latter attracted only five pupils in 1905-06 and two in 1906-07. The qualifications for admission are the same as in the case of " B " classes and the course extends over two years. After passing the final examination, students are entitled to join the special class opened for them in the Presidency College, Calcutta, where, after studying for a further period of two years, they are fully competent to take up a commercial career.

INSTRUCTION.

Female Education.

527. Female schools of all classes rose from 2,571 to 2,807, or by nearly 9·2 per cent. The number of girls under instruction increased from 63,973 to 70,451, of whom 05 per cent. attended high classes 12 per cent. middle, 62 per cent. upper primary, 36·35 per cent. three upper classes of lower primary, and 62·86 per cent. lower classes of lower primary schools. Three girls passed the Entrance Examination, 5 the middle school standard, 4 the upper primary school, 21 the lower primary standard. The total expenditure on female education was Rs. 1,26,160. During the year 13 State scholarships were held in the Dacca Division, 12 in Chittagong and 6 in the Assam Valley Divisions.

Education of Europeans and Eurasians.

528. European education in the province cannot be considered to be satisfactory. One school ceased to exist during the year for want of teachers; another was about to be closed through lack of pupils, while, though the number of pupils in all classes of schools showed a slight increase from 416 to 464, the attendance showed a perceptible decline, and no candidates were found competent enough to be sent up for the Bengal Scholarship Examination. It is obvious that much still remains to be done in the direction of fostering European education, and this, it is hoped, will be effected by the introduction of the new Code and by the judicious use of the increased funds that will now be placed at the disposal of the Inspector of European Schools.

Muhammadan Education.

529. It is very satisfactory to note that the improvement in Muhammadan education reported last year has been maintained, Muhammadans under instruction in public and private institutions having increased during the year by 6·8 per cent. and their proportion advanced from 50·2 per cent. of all under instruction to 52·2 per cent. A further impetus may be anticipated in the near future, as a scheme for bringing under the grant-in-aid system the indigenous Muhammadan primary schools which exist throughout the province is now being brought into full operation. These schools will be aided on condition that they conform to the simple departmental standards.

Hostels.

530. A strong forward movement is being made in regard to the provision of hostel accommodation for students of all classes. The number of hostels, attached to State and all other kinds of institutions, was 137 for male, and 5 for female pupils. The boarders living in the former were 3,034 and in the latter 168. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,41,230, the sum of Rs. 89,749 was met from charges from the pupils, and of the rest, Rs. 20,598 were debited to Provincial revenues, Rs. 2,173 to Local Funds, and Rs. 28,710 to endowments and subscriptions. Twenty-three hostels were managed by Government, and were attached to Government Madrassas, to the Cotton College, and to the zilla schools in Assam, etc. The cost per head in hostel of all kinds was just over Rs. 44.

Moral training.

531. Want of a systematic organisation for the moral training of boys is a general drawback in all classes of schools in the province. Some institutions have societies intended for social or moral improvement attached to them, but, generally speaking, apart from the influence which the lessons of the prescribed Readers may be expected to inculcate, there is no regular system for imparting moral instruction to our school boys. And it is chiefly this defect which was responsible for the out break, during the previous year and the year under report, of a series of disturbances which, in Eastern Bengal at least, was largely connected with political agitation.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

Literary works.

532. The total number of publications registered during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 134, against 45 in the preceding year. Of these, 38 were educational and 96 non-educational works; 104 were first editions, 4 new editions, and 25 republications. Forty-five of these books were in Assamese, 6 were in Sanskrit, 81 in Bengali, 7 in English while one was in Khasi. The publications registered during the year are classified below according to the subjects dealt with :—

						Number of publications
(1) Language	...	...	...	...	...	31
(2) Poetry	...	...	...	...	...	27
(3) History	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(4) Drama	...	...	...	...	...	1
(5) Religion	...	...	...	...	...	18
(6) Biography	...	...	...	...	...	1
(7) Medicine	...	...	...	...	...	3
(8) Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	53
Total						134

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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INSTRUC-
TION.
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533. The copyright of five books (one on religion, one on language, one on poetry and two miscellaneous) was registered during the year.

534. There were 10 Anglo-Vernacular and 34 Vernacular newspapers published in the province during the year. None of them calls for any special notice. Newspapers.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies in Eastern Bengal and Assam.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.--ARCHÆOLOGY.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Work of
the year.

535. Seven of the ruins at Gaur and three at Pandua, both in the district of Malda, have been selected by the Archæological Surveyor, Bengal, as being worthy of preservation. The work of restoring and preserving the Sona Musjid, the Lotan Musjid, and the Qudan Rasul in the former, and the Qutub Shahi Mosque and the Eklakhi tomb in the latter was completed and their compounds were fenced and dressed. The work on the remaining buildings is still in progress. Considerable progress was made towards the restoration of the monolithic columns at Dimapur and of the vestibule and the temple at Hajo.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[See General Administration Report for 1905-1906 page 196.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

Ecclesiastical. 536. The Ecclesiastical establishment in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam consists of the Government Chaplains of Shillong and Dacca. The districts and stations of Darrang, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Saidpur, Chittagong and Silchar are ministered to by clergymen, who are not Government Chaplains; but who receive aided allowances (some of Rs. 150 and some of Rs. 100) from Government.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

Stationery. 537. The cost of stationery supplied during the year by the Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, to officers of this Government was Rs. 1,15,024-9-0.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

538. The total receipts of the Secretariat Press increased from Rs. 2,215 to Rs. 3,701, and the expenditure from Rs. 88,493 to Rs. 1,22,782. The total value of work turned out was Rs. 1,99,252 against Rs. 1,37,566 in the previous year. The profit and loss account showed a net gain of Rs. 57,726.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[See Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending 31st March 1907.]

Veterinary Instruction. 539. Ten students from Assam held Government scholarships at the Belgachia College, Calcutta, during the year. Of these, one passed the final examination held in March last, three were promoted to the third-year and five to the second-year class. Twelve Districts Board stipendiaries were sent from Eastern Bengal, of whom five passed the final examination and were posted to different districts in the province.

Recruitment. 540. During the year negotiations with the Government of Bengal for the regular supply of trained assistants to this province were concluded, and it was decided that this Government should contribute annually Rs. 27,665 towards the up-keep of the Belgachia College, in return for which it would be entitled to fill one-third of the vacancies among the students. It is hoped that this arrangement will help in the course of the next two or three years to remedy that defect in *personnel* which is the most serious bar to the progress of the Department. For the present, since the close of the year, 14 qualified assistants have been engaged, and improvements in the stipends and scholarships of students under training have been sanctioned. The question of maintaining a Veterinary reserve for emergencies is under consideration.

Veterinary hospital and dispensaries. 541. The total number of dispensaries which worked throughout the year was six. Six thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight animals were treated in them. There was an increase in the number of in, and a decrease in the number of out, patients.

Deaths from cattle diseases. 542. The total number of deaths from cattle diseases was 55,969. Of these, the largest number of deaths (20,873) was caused by rinderpest.

Inoculation. 543. A grant of Rs. 5,000 was made during the year to the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association to assist them in obtaining the services of a Veterinary Surgeon and in dealing with the cattle diseases which were causing a great havoc among cattle in all parts of the Surma Valley. Inoculation work was started on the 24th February 1907, and has since been carried on regularly, with the result that the mortality has been reduced in some of the centres.

Cost. 544. The cost of the Department amounted to Rs. 25,269.

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